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Times poll shows Tory leader's poor image

## Hague fights to save his political life

By PHILIP WEBSTER, ROLAND WATSON, ANDREW PIERCE AND PETER RIDDELL

**WILLIAM HAGUE** battled for his political life last night by delivering a pledge of loyalty to Margaret Thatcher and her inheritance. Struggling to contain the crisis that has hit his leadership and confronted by a MORI poll showing support for the party and its leader were slipping still further, Mr Hague faced all of his MPs and promised to consult them more.

And he moved again to appease the Right and silence rumblings about his position in a speech last night when he denied that his efforts to improve the party's image on health and education meant that it was abandoning Baroness Thatcher — "one of its truly great leaders" — or the free market — "its great source of inspiration".

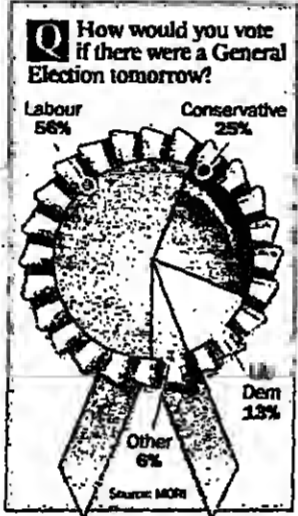
But he refused to retreat from his attempt to kill the notion that the Tories favour the privatisation of the health and education services, emphasising the limits to private sector solutions to their problems. The appearance before the 1922 Committee was a gamble and he finally decided to go ahead with it only an hour before the meeting started — his Shadow Cabinet having closed ranks behind him.

He delivered a short speech, conceding that the events of the past eight days could have been better handled and promising to listen to them more. According to his aides, he received the biggest cheer when he told them that their purpose was to return to power and "not to have theological arguments about every point of policy".

He declared that despite the "worries, criticisms and misapprehensions" that he had encountered, he would not be deterred from making his commitment to the public services plain. "I will go through any number of arguments, take on anyone in debate, endure any criticism, do whatever it takes to get across this position on health and education that is true to the instincts and principles of our party."

The appearance at the 1922 Committee came after Mr Hague had been warned by his Chief Whip James Arbuthnot that the parliamentary party was in a state of revolt. Senior backbenchers had said that feeling was running so high against the strategy unleashed by Peter Lilley, the deputy leader, that they would have little difficulty collecting the 24 signatures needed to trigger a vote of confidence in Mr Hague's leadership.

At the backbenchers' meeting, Mr Hague gave the strong avowal of support for Margaret Thatcher that he was to repeat later at a London fund-raising dinner. He declared that he had joined

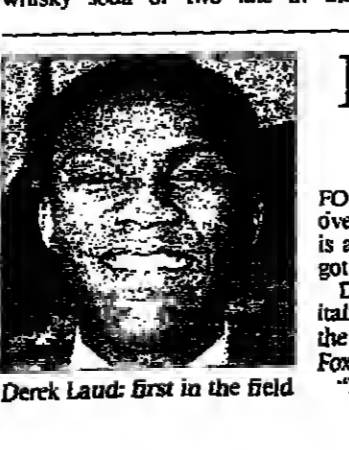


William Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image — particularly among Tories, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, the latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows. Mr Hague's personal rating has dropped from minus 26 to minus 31, and among Tories it now stands at minus 26, which means that twice as many disapprove of his leadership as approve. Page 2



the Conservative Party because of Margaret Thatcher and was proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her election victory. He had always believed passionately that the free market was essential to ensuring freedom, prosperity and personal responsibility. But it was not the policy of the Thatcher Government to extend the free market to every aspect of national life.

"If the criticism is that we are turning our backs on Margaret Thatcher and the free market, I say that we will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always



evening after her umpteenth-hour day: now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There was no arguing with her anymore; in fact it was impossible to talk to her."

ways be champions of the free market. But we also believe, as previous Conservative governments have, that schools and hospitals paid for by all taxpayers should be available to everyone in the country."

Mr Hague's critics on the backbenches were in full cry, complaining at the muddle in the party's message and the desperately poor timing of Mr Lilley's attempt to change public perceptions of the party. Mr Lilley himself came in for huge criticism from senior backbenchers, many saying that he was out of touch and complaining about the slow pace and lack of imagination in his policy review.

The Shadow Cabinet has voiced deep unhappiness at the way the Lilley plan was executed and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, has privately distanced himself from the Lilley speech.

Mr Maude, a member of the Conservative Central Office strategy group which backed the campaign to try to change the Tories image on the health service, complained directly to Mr Hague about the failed execution of the plan.

Francis is loyal and keeps his views private. But there is no doubt he was deeply unhappy with the spin which was put on the speech by Central Office, one aide said. "The last thing he wanted for us was to apologise for something we had not done wrong."

There is a growing consensus that the Lilley speech was badly handled, not just in the lack of consultation, but in the way it was written. It was careless, not least in what it omitted. Francis shares the views of most people in the party that this went badly wrong. We do have to slay the dragon over the NHS. But not the way Lilley chose to do it."

The Maude camp is still clinging to the hope the row will still help the Tories on the doorstep by reinforcing the view that they will defend the NHS. A mood of deep despondency pervaded party headquarters yesterday. An inquest was held at the early morning strategy meeting over the revelations in *The Times* about the sacking of Michael Simmonds, the director of research and marketing, who was accused of leaking the first draft of Mr Lilley's speech, which went much further in denouncing Thatcherite ideology.

Mr Arbuthnot was livid that his description of the crisis gripping the parliamentary party had been leaked to *The Times* and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, made an implicit threat that anyone caught talking out of turn to the press would be sacked on the spot.

Blame Basilidon, page 14  
Leading article, page 23



Alan Farthing speaking about his fiancée, Jill Dando, who was murdered on Monday. He appealed for anyone with any information or suspicions to contact the police

'I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well meaning and as perfect a person as Jill'

The fiancé of Jill Dando spoke of his incomprehension and grief yesterday as the search for her killer made slow progress.

Alan Farthing, who was planning to marry the television presenter later this year, said that he could think of no reason for the murder of such a "beautiful, caring and well-meaning" person.

The investigation has been hampered by a delay in issuing pictures of the suspect. Scotland Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who got a good enough view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. At least five men and two women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-fit.

Miss Dando had recently sold her house, in Fulham, west London, it emerged, and planned to move in with Mr Farthing. The buyers spoke of their sadness last night.

Farthing speaks, page 5  
Dr Stuttaford, page 20  
Mick Hume, page 22  
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## Belgrade riven as dissenter is sacked

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

**VUK DRASKOVIC**, who has criticised President Milosevic and claimed that Belgrade was ready to accept a peace deal over Kosovo, was dismissed as Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister yesterday.

The move came a few days after he had publicly declared that Mr Milosevic should acknowledge Nato could not be defeated. He also urged the Government in Belgrade to stop lying about the country's deteriorating economy after weeks of Nato bombing.

Nato said that the dismissal was a sign of Mr Milosevic's increasing isolation and "the first visible fracture" in the Yugoslav leadership. Mr Draskovic had paid the price of speaking the truth, a Nato official said.

Mr Draskovic said yesterday: "I don't know what precipitated my removal. I haven't spoken to Milosevic."

Nato admitted yesterday that a laser-guided bomb had "gone astray" over the town of Surdulica in southern Serbia, hitting a residential area instead of a military barracks. The Yugoslav authorities said that up to 30 civilians had been killed, including six children.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that he regretted the civilian deaths. Later Tony Blair repeated to the Commons that Nato took every possible precaution to avoid civilian casualties.

As Nato's air campaign went into its

sixth week, efforts to find a peace settlement continued, with more meetings in Moscow. However, Strobe Talbott, the American Deputy Secretary of State, on a visit to Berlin after going to Moscow, said that there was nothing to indicate that Mr Milosevic was closer to accepting Nato's five demands.

In Berlin, Mr Talbott met Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, before he flew to Moscow where he will see President Yeltsin tomorrow.

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day. As part of an intensification of diplomatic efforts to end the Kosovo crisis, Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister, was also in Moscow yesterday, meeting Russian leaders.

He said yesterday: "There are elements that increase the hope of a political solution slightly, though one should not overrate them."

However, Goran Madic, a senior Yugoslav official, was quoted in the New York Times as saying that the basic outline of an agreement on Kosovo could be "firmed up" this week.

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## Fox-hunting black joins the masters

By TIM REID

FOR ONE of the nation's most conservative, white, male-dominated pursuits, it is almost a revolution. Britain has just got its first black master of foxhounds.

Derek Laud, 39, a London venture capitalist, has been elected joint master of the prestigious, 210-year-old New Forest Foxhounds, a post he takes up on May 1. "I don't think the hunt are conscious of

the colour of my skin," Mr Laud told *The Times* last night. "But we don't want to put distance between us and anyone that wants to participate in this sport. It doesn't matter if they are a woman or a man, gay or straight."

John Moore, chairman of the hunt club, said: "His colour has nothing to do with it. He's just a bloody nice bloke. He's a good rider, popular, and kind to other members of the hunt."

Mr Laud, who traces his roots to Jamaica, was once challenged on his horse by an anti-hunt saboteur on the grounds that 100 years ago similar people would have been hunting him. "Yes," he countered, "but 200 years ago I would have been eating them."

Mr Laud came to prominence in the early 1990s as the first — and to date only — black member of the right-wing Monday Club.



Derek Laud: first in the field

# Hapless pawn aught unawares in midst of a bigger game

LET us be fair in Charlotte Atkins: Prime Minister's Questions always did rollercoaster between the sublime and the ridiculous.

There is nothing new in the sight of MPs clutching their stomachs as the House makes a sickening lurch from a humanitarian catastrophe in Albania to an outbreak of cat flu in Bolton. Members may raise what they please; and do. The result is an eclectic mix of domestic bees in local bonnets, with questions on the destiny of mankind.

So for Ms Atkins it was more bad luck than bad judgment that her question on the status of chess immediately followed an impassioned outburst from the Prime Minister on the horrors of Kosovo. That Balkan exchange, like those that followed, had been delivered to a resolute House. I reported last week that the Commons barometer had moved to "unsettled". Yesterday it inched back towards a stable high pressure. William Hague (poor thing) sounded rather bleak — just

go, through the motions. Not unexpected moved off-stage. But Ms Atkins temporarily lost the plot. The Labour MP for Staffordshire Moorlands is neither obsessive nor a fool. And there is no reason why she should not raise, at this higher of levels, the grievance of chess players that their game is not recognised as a sport.

Nor could she choose her moment when to speak: MPs who want to intervene have to start leaping up from the very

outset, to catch the Chair's attention. Ms Atkins did.

Disaster! She succeeded too early. Immediately after Mr Hague had been cross-questioning Tony Blair about the conflict in the Balkans, Mr Blair had worked himself into particular outrage at Serbian atrocities. Steam was still coming from his ears.

This was not the moment for chess. But, as Miss Atkins called her name, it was too late for Ms Atkins to correct a new question on the rape of Albania. She ploughed through her protest against the persecution of chess players.

MPs brows crowded. People began offering and

showing their heads. Front-benchers looked uncomfortable. After too long, Ms Atkins sat down: a loyal near-Labourite who had asked a fair question, but with unlucky timing.

It was instructive to note the ruthlessness with which Mr Blair let her swing. The Labour Whips' Office now tries to select who will intervene, and to orchestrate questions, so this sketch would be surprised if she had given no notice of what she hoped to raise — but it is possible.

In any event, whether or

not Mr Blair could have dealt with her question, he chose to make light of it. In mock-exasperation he protested — in effect — that prime ministers do get rogue cocoons like this thrown at them, and simply have to duck.

Rather wittily he remarked that he was looking in vain along his front bench for help. Everyone laughed: laughed with him, and at Ms Atkins, who looked a bit wretched.

The effect was to play to the mood of the House, joining

others in grinning at the inappropriateness of Charlotte Atkins's Question. Most journalists will admire the skill and light touch with which Mr Blair extracted himself unscathed from a potentially awkward exchange.

But this sketchwriter, who has been a backbencher, felt for Ms Atkins. Somewhere in her half-consciousness a tiny arrow has now lodged. In a phrase of Thornton Wilder's, "wrapped in layers of forgiveness and understanding, it sank into her heart".

ADAM BULLER

## Relaunch of Hague fails with voters

SUPPORT for William Hague has dropped sharply among Tory supporters, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. This is a further blow to Mr Hague as he tries to assuage his authority.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the Tories have fallen even further behind Labour ahead of the local, Scottish and Welsh elections next Thursday. Moreover, Mr Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image, particularly among Tory supporters.

Labour is now at the top end of its post-election range at 56 per cent, up two points since late March, while the Tories have fallen back two points over the month to 25 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 13 per cent.

Mr Hague's personal rating has deteriorated despite the attempts to relaunch his image, and may reflect the initial impact of the Tory row over Peter Lilley's speech last week on public spending. His approval rating, measuring those satisfied less dissatisfied with his performance as party leader, has fallen from minus 26 to minus 31 points, the lowest level since last September.

Even more worrying for Mr

Poll shows that even many Tories prefer Blair, writes Peter Riddell

Hague is that his rating among Tory supporters is almost as bad. This figure has fluctuated sharply in recent months, but, by a margin of nearly two-to-one (56 to 30 per cent), Tory supporters are dissatisfied rather than satisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

Over the last few months, his approval rating among Tories has been minus 15, minus 4, minus 27, minus 3 and, now, minus 26 points.

MORI this month asked a series of questions about the image of the party leaders. On each of the 14 measures, Mr Hague not only lags well behind Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, but also shows no sign of improvement compared with when he became Tory leader nearly two years ago. For instance Mr Hague's rating as a capable leader has remained stuck at 10 per cent since autumn 1997, compared

with 51 per cent who rate Mr Blair as capable. Similarly, an unchanged nine per cent believe Mr Hague understands world problems, against 38 per cent who believe Mr Blair does.

Moreover, on nine of the 14 measures, Tory supporters rate Mr Blair more highly than their own leader, Mr Hague. For instance, 39 per cent of Tories regard Mr Blair as a capable leader, but only 17 per cent have the same view of Mr Hague. The contrast, among Tory supporters, is 21 to 5 per cent between the leaders on being good in a crisis, and 33 to 7 per cent on having a lot of personality.

By contrast, Mr Blair's rating remains very strong and has probably been helped by his handling of Kosovo. His rating, satisfied less dissatisfied, has risen from plus 32 to plus 35 points in the past month, to the highest level since August 1998.

□ MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,966 adults at 162 sampling points across Britain on April 23 to 26. Voting intention figures exclude those who would not vote (9 per cent), who are undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).

Leading article, page 23



The Prince of Wales is shown at a dinner yesterday at a hotel for the homeless in Victoria, London. As part of the Prince's backing for initiatives involving the homeless, tailored suits are to be given to those attending job interviews (Alexandra Froom writes).

## Prince's makeover on homeless

hostels and day centres. Most of the 70 managing directors and chief executives who took part promised immediate help. David Fellows, deputy managing director of Aquascutum, said he would donate suits and other clothing to the Crisis charity for homeless people attending job interviews.

Andrew Robertson, managing di-

rector of Abbott Meade Vickers advertising agency, said that his company's contribution would be to buy or build a "halfway house" with accommodation for up to ten. He said the property, to be called The Big House, will help people moving to their own flats to get used to having a home again.

Business Action on Homelessness

is a joint venture between the Prince's charity, Business in the Community, and the housing charity Crisis, and is chaired by John Studzinski, managing director of the investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

At a meeting of 50 senior business leaders in St James's Palace, London, yesterday, Mr Studzinski said that relieving homelessness was one of the most tangible ways in which organisations could "play the good shepherd".

LAURA ASHLEY

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## Food giant to phase out GM ingredients

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

NESTLÉ, one of Britain's biggest food manufacturers, last night announced plans to phase out genetically modified ingredients, including flours, oils and additives, from its British product range.

The company's move comes a day after Unilever, the food manufacturing giant, announced its intention to remove genetically modified organisms from its products in Britain. Nestlé said that its decision came after a sharp fall in consumer confidence.

Nestlé, which owns British companies including Rowntree, Nescafé, Carnation Milk and Cross & Blackwell, said that it had already reformulated recipes or phased out material from genetically modified crops from many products.

A spokeswoman said they now had only three products labelled as containing genetically modified ingredients — all Cross & Blackwell sandwiches. These are to have their genetically modified ingredients removed.

She added that the company was now tackling the tougher issue of sourcing soy and soy derivatives, such as oils, flours and lecithin used in chocolate, from conventionally grown crops. The main sources are Brazil and Canada. But

campaigners believe that, given the market muscle of Nestlé, Unilever and supermarkets such as Sainsbury, grocers in the United States may now look to switch back to traditional soy varieties.

"For a transitional period, some Nestlé UK products may continue to contain low levels of highly refined ingredients which, while they may have come from GM crops, have been purified to such an extent that the finished product no longer contains any GM material," the company said.

But it added in a statement that its new policy was to source even these refined ingredients from conventional varieties of soy and maize. "We will endeavour to purchase ingredients from non-GM sources."

Nestlé could not put a date on when all its 250 lines would be sourced from conventional crops, but it is working with suppliers to achieve that as soon as possible.

Lord Melchett, speaking for Greenpeace, said that those who still supported GM crops and foods were driven by "religious zeal" rather than common sense, adding: "If Tony Blair and Jack Cunningham felt exposed after Unilever's announcement, they must be feeling positively silly now."



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Car chase pair face 16 fresh charges

Two men arrested after a high-speed car chase in which shots were fired and passers-by wounded faced 16 new charges of attempted murder when they appeared before magistrates in Manchester yesterday. Yakub Olatunde Adedara, 29, of no fixed address, now faces a total of 23 charges of attempting to murder police and members of the public during the incident, which ended in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, last Friday. Andrew Dennis, 23, of Medlock Road, Fallowfield, Oldham, faces a total of 22 attempted murder charges. They were also charged with kidnapping a 27-year-old married woman in Bolton. No bail applications were made.

### MP 'entitled to return'

Fiona Jones, the disqualified Labour MP whose conviction for electoral fraud was quashed on appeal, should be allowed to resume her seat in the interests of natural justice and those who voted for her, the High Court was told. "Where an MP... is convicted at first instance but succeeds on appeal, their incapacity to sit as an MP is removed," said Philip Sales, for the Attorney-General. The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

### Call to snub Sinn Fein

The bipartisan consensus on Northern Ireland was further fractured when the Tories called for the establishment of an executive without Sinn Fein (Martin Fletcher writes). The Government rejected a demand by Andrew Mackay, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, that Sinn Fein should join only when the IRA had disbanded. Mr Mackay, Northern Ireland Secretary, said that would remove "the one bit of leverage I have".

### Health cases checked

The records of 800 patients of an ear, nose and throat consultant are to be reviewed after an inquiry into his competence (Simon de Bruxelles writes). Colleagues had expressed concern about the work of Julian Upton, 62, who retired from Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, Somerset, last month on health grounds. Consultants called in to review 21 of his cases recommended that the treatment of another 790 patients should be looked at.

## Trade war looms over ban on US beef

BY CARL MORTISHED, CHARLES BREMNER AND BEN MACINTYRE

EUROPE is heading for a new trade war with the United States after a committee of veterinary scientists in Brussels decided to ban all imports of US beef into Europe by June 15 unless the meat is proved to be free of artificial hormones.

The ban caused anger among US trade officials who suggested it belied a "tit-for-tat" attitude on the part of the EU. Washington is already threatening action over an existing European ban on imports of

hormone-treated beef which the World Trade Organisation has declared illegal.

The decision to ban all beef originating from the US will affect some £12 million of US exports, including £3.8 million of US beef sold to Britain. Tests by European scientists on beef sold as hormone-free revealed that 12 per cent of the samples contained residues of artificial growth hormones, alleged to be carcinogenic.

The US rejects the claims of health risk and has published a list of \$900 million worth of European exports, including Roquefort, foie gras and motorcycles,

which will be liable to 100 per cent duties if Brussels fails to lift its ban by May 13.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said Europe was acting to protect consumer health and was ready to work with US authorities to resolve the problem. However, Britain voted yesterday by a move when it was initiated yesterday by the EU's standing veterinary committee.

A British spokeswoman said: "We consider the EU move to be disproportionate. There is clearly a problem with US control measures and we expect them to be addressed as soon as possible."

## Marine mass

Police question four f  
killers, reports Giles

The police are questioning four men in connection with the shooting of a woman in a car park in Manchester yesterday. The woman, who was 35, was shot in the chest and died. The police are also questioning a man who was seen running away from the scene. The police are also questioning a man who was seen running away from the scene. The police are also questioning a man who was seen running away from the scene.

## Patched-1

BY MIA O'CONNELL

THE Verve, the rock group that Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "the best band in the world — apart from us", announced yesterday that they had split after months of speculation about their future.

The band, which slumped down from five to a quartet when the guitarist, Nick McCabe, left, said it was a mutual decision. Richard Ashcroft, the singer, said: "The decision to split the band did not come without a great deal of discussion to me personally."

"I have always given everything to the band and would have continued to do so if circumstances had not made it impossible."

The working-class boys from Wigan patched up his including Bitter Sweet

# Tycoon 'hired killer in custody fight'

**Court told  
hitman was  
paid £20,000  
to murder  
wife, reports  
Richard Duce**

A MILLIONAIRE paid a hitman £20,000 to murder his former partner after she won custody of their two children, a court was told yesterday.

Derek Goldsmith, who made a fortune from his Aqualisa shower company, was said to have embarked on a "calculated and wicked" plot to have Diana Goldsmith killed because he wanted care of their son and daughter. The 44-year-old woman — she took his name although they never married — had been abducted from her home by two men in January 1995 and murdered soon afterwards. Her body was not found for two years, when it was discovered buried in the back garden of a house in Bromley, southeast London.

Andrew Patience, QC, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Goldsmith, 62, refused to accept the ruling by a High Court judge that custody of his son, aged seven, and 12-year-old daughter should remain with their mother when the couple separated after 12 years. "He never came to terms with it. Derek Goldsmith's determination to have these children under his care and control has led him ultimately to the dock where he now stands trial."

Mr Patience said: "The defendant badly wanted the care and control of his children. That desire was thwarted by the decision of the High Court which he could not accept. It is for that reason he entered into a calculated and wicked plan to get the children back, although it meant they would be deprived of their mother for ever."

He said the prosecution did not claim that Mr Goldsmith had killed Diana Goldsmith himself. "He was careful to keep his distance. Rather we say that by giving final instructions... he counselled and procured her death."

Mr Patience said the murder plot took shape after Mr Goldsmith confided in Michael Fitzpatrick, his son-in-law by a previous marriage, who he had helped to set up in a scrap metal business in South London. "He spoke of



Diana being an unfit mother and how he would get his children back some day. It was like an obsession with him," Mr Patience said.

Their friendship had taken a darker and "sinister" twist when Mr Goldsmith had asked Fitzpatrick if he knew of "anyone who could get rid of Diana, that is to say kill her."

Fitzpatrick, who has admitted conspiracy to murder, is a key prosecution witness. It was he who put Mr Goldsmith in touch with the hitman, Ian Colligan. Mr Patience said that under instructions from Mr Goldsmith, Colligan and Fitzpatrick burgled Mrs Goldsmith's home in Sevenoaks, Kent, to copy a set of her keys. The plan had been to return later and lie in wait for her.

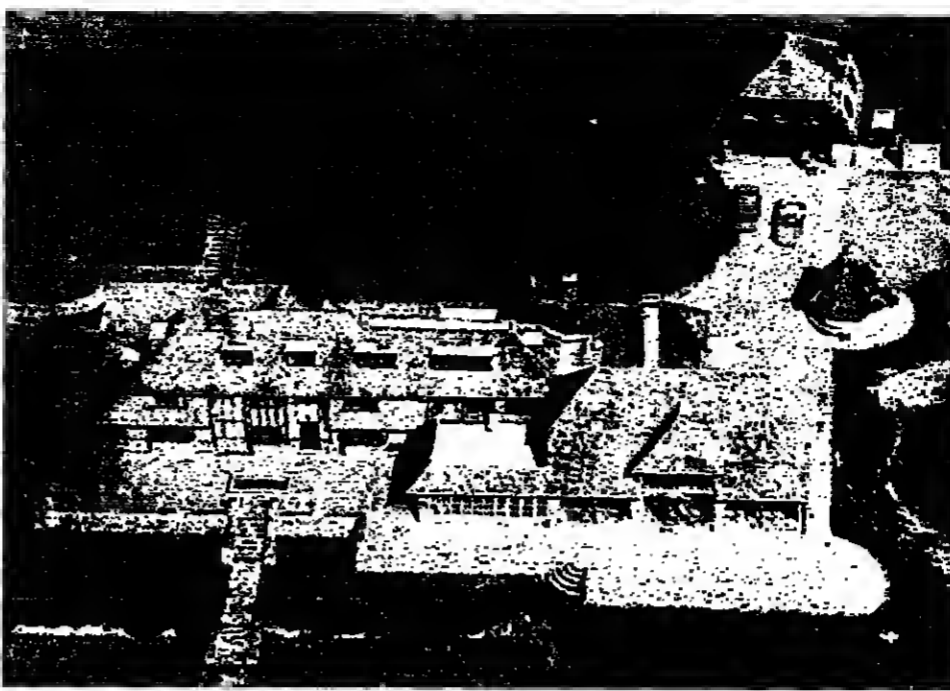
Colligan had reported back to Fitzpatrick that Mr Goldsmith had handed him £20,000 at a Little Chef on the

A21 road to Hastings. But by now, Mr Patience said, Fitzpatrick had got cold feet and urged Colligan "not to do the job and keep the money".

Instead, Colligan had recruited his friend Michael Danaher with the offer of £1,500, and the two men had let themselves in to Mrs Goldsmith's house. She had returned home having dropped off her son at his school.

Mr Patience told the jury: "Colligan overpowered her. She was assured no harm would come to her and she was given a cup of coffee and a cigarette to calm her down. Her hands were secured with plastic ties." Mrs Goldsmith had then been driven away in her own Volvo car, which had later been found abandoned at the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Essex. She was never seen alive again.

Mr Patience said that Colligan then told Fitzpatrick that



The prosecution claims that Diana Goldsmith was kidnapped from her house in Sevenoaks, below, on the orders of her partner Derek Goldsmith, right, who lived in Edenbridge, above, and was put in touch with the hitman by Michael Fitzpatrick, below



he would not dispose of the body unless he was paid a further £20,000 by Mr Goldsmith. The millionaire had handed over a further £6,000. In the meantime, Fitzpatrick had asked a friend if he could bury 50 kilos of cannabis in his back garden. While the friend was out, Fitzpatrick had buried the body.

Mr Patience said that days before he was arrested last year, Mr Goldsmith, who by now had custody of his children, had ordered a book near his home in Edenbridge, Kent, entitled *When Father Kills Mother — guiding children through trauma and grief*.

Danaher admitted a kidnapping charge in June 1996 and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court. Colligan committed suicide while on remand in prison. Mr Goldsmith denies conspiring to murder his wife.

The trial continues.

## Marines rejected school massacre mastermind

**Police question four friends of  
killers, reports Giles Whittell**

ERIC HARRIS, who masterminded the school shooting in Colorado in which 15 people died last week, was taking medication for a psychiatric condition and had been rejected by the US Marines five days before.

According to military sources, Harris had done well in an early interview for the Marines but had been turned down on medical grounds. "The system worked," a Marine Corps spokesman said. But the young man it weeded out then went on a rampage, the impact of which is still being felt more than a week later. As crowds packed two more funerals for victims of Harris and his partner, Dylan Klebold, police confirmed that three more young men and a woman could still become suspects.

The men being questioned, all with links to the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia, have been named as Matthew Christianson, Matt Akard and Jim Bran-

etti. They were spotted near the school wearing combat fatigues and black shirts during the shootings, taken into custody and released.

One told the *Rocky Mountain News* that they had been watching because they were "just three punks with a lot of curiosity". Police suspect they may have known about the massacre in advance because, as Sheriff John Stone noted on Tuesday: "They said they heard it on the radio... but it wasn't on the radio then."

The woman helping detectives, 18-year-old Robyn Anderson, was Klebold's girlfriend. She went to the school prom with him three days before the killings and is known to have bought the two shotguns used by him and Harris. Questioned and released on Tuesday, she was still co-operating with police yesterday.

A national debate on who to blame for the carnage may find the answer in the courts. Geof-



Anderson: bought two guns used in the killings

frey Feiger, a nationally-known defence lawyer who made his name representing Dr Jack Kervorkian, the advocate of assisted suicide, has been approached twice by the family of the sole black victim, Isaiah Shoels. His father is considering a lawsuit because police and school officials allegedly ignored repeated warnings about threats of violence from Harris and Klebold, and on the ground that their parents ig-

nored clear signs of an arms build-up in their own homes.

"How would they not know they had bomb factories in their houses?" Michael Schwartz, Mr Feiger's law partner, asked as police raised the number of bombs found at the school to 51.

New information released on Tuesday hinted for the first time that Harris and Klebold may have considered suicide only as a last resort. Harris's diary contained mention of escaping to Mexico. Sheriff Stone said. Detectives also believe the gunmen made three attempts to flee the building before shooting themselves.

As the investigation continued, President Clinton made an impassioned plea for new gun control measures. He asked "everybody who is waiting for the next deer season in my home state to think about this in terms of what our reasonable obligations to the larger community of America are".

The Duchess of York joined mourners in Littleton, saying that it reminded her of Kensington Palace after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

## Patched-up Verve split again

By Alex O'Connell

THE Verve, the rock group that Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "the best band in the world — apart from us", announced yesterday that they had split after months of speculation about their future.

The band, which slimmed down from five to a quartet when the guitarist Nick McCabe left, said it was a mutual decision. Richard Ashcroft, the singer, said: "The decision to split the band did not come without a great deal of distress to me personally."

"I have always given everything to the band and would have continued to do so if circumstances had not made it impossible."

The working-class boys from Wigan notched up hits including *Bitter Sweet*



The five members of The Verve before they parted company

*Symphony* and their first No 1, *The Drugs Don't Work*.

This is not the first time the band has split. In 1995 McCabe and Ashcroft fell out over the singer's hedonistic lifestyle and McCabe did not speak to any of

The Verve for 18 months. Ashcroft, known as "Mad Richard" at the time, because of his appetite for drugs, reportedly begged McCabe to come back. Later he wrote *The Drugs Don't Work* about the circumstances surrounding the split. But although McCabe was reported to have patched up differences with the group, he did not perform or record with them again.

In January Ashcroft held a party at his mansion in Gloucestershire without inviting the other band members. The previous month Ashcroft and McCabe had been snubbed when they found out through friends about the wedding of the guitarist Simon Tong.

Recently it emerged that Ashcroft had been recording in a South London studio, followed by rumours of a solo project.





# 'Who would want to kill my gentle Jill?'

Fiancé urges those with suspicions to tell police, writes Michael Harvey

THE fiancé of the murdered television presenter Jill Dando spoke yesterday of his grief and incomprehension at her death. Alan Farthing said: "I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well-meaning and as perfect a person as Jill."

Mr Farthing, 35, a consultant gynaecologist at a West London hospital, was due to marry Miss Dando in September. They had been seeing each other since meeting on a blind date last year.

In an emotional interview organised by the police he said: "I am coping in the same way as anybody else would cope in these circumstances. I am devastated. Everybody around me is devastated, everybody is trying to offer as much support as they possibly can."

Mr Farthing, who was told of his fiancée's death while at work at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, added: "I cannot believe what has happened. I cannot think for one moment what could go through someone's mind when they do such a thing to such a beautiful, caring and well-meaning person such as Jill."

His thoughts were focused



Jill Dando and Alan Farthing together last Christmas

on finding her killer: "Somebody has planned this... and somebody around that person will have noticed a change in behaviour. I would appeal to anyone who is suspicious not to think about it, but to just go ahead and give the police the information they have. If the information is not relevant, then let the police officers decide that."

Mr Farthing was speaking at Kensington police station, where the murder investigation is being co-ordinated. He said that Miss Dando, 37, had not spoken of any serious fears about her celebrity status or

her role presenting *Crimewatch UK*. He added: "I have spent hours, as has everybody who knows Jill, desperately racking the backs of our minds to see if we can come up with a particular reason. It is not something that was a topic of conversation. She never really felt that there was any particular danger to her as far as I'm aware."

He said that she had contacted *Crimewatch* before she joined to see if anyone had been threatened, but was reassured. "It did not worry us. More worrying were the occasions when she had to go in to

the BBC car park at 1am to drive herself home."

Mr Farthing said that he could see himself going back to work, but for the moment he was too busy helping the police. "My first emotions now are that whatever happens and whatever arrests are made, it does not bring back Jill and that is desperately sad."

"Nevertheless, it helps me and Jill's family and it helps Jill's friends and colleagues to feel that we are doing everything we can to try and apprehend whoever is responsible."

Mr Farthing, his voice breaking, said that he had last spoken to Miss Dando at 7.25am on Monday when she left his house in Chiswick. Detectives are still talking to family and friends, seeking clues.

Mr Farthing first heard that there was something wrong when he had a pager message from her agent, who was trying to find out if rumours of her death were true. He had tried to contact police stations when a senior police officer whom he knew arrived to give him the news.

Talk of a public memorial was premature but he and Miss Dando's family wanted to thank all those who had expressed their condolences.



Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell at the Dando murder scene yesterday

## Delay in issuing picture holds up the hunt

By Stewart Tenoler, Crime Correspondent

THE hunt for Jill Dando's killer is making slow progress, hit by delays in issuing key pictures of the main suspect.

Three days after the murder senior detectives have also lost the advantage of the first 24 hours, called the "golden hours" by police because the memories of witnesses are at their sharpest.

Scotland Yard commanders believe the case is "very solvable", because of the number of witnesses, unless Miss Dando was the victim of a Serbian revenge attack. But a number of top leads, identified as "fast-track inquiries", carried out in the first day of investigation have failed to yield results.

These would include obvious tasks such as searches of the area, anyone immediately identified as having a motive and tip-offs of good suspects.

Yesterday the Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who had a good view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. At least five men and two women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-Fit. One of the problems is that witnesses may have only caught a side or back view of the suspect who was aged between 30 and 40, about 5ft 10in or 5ft 11in tall, well dressed in a suit or dark jacket and trousers, and carrying a mobile telephone.

The Dando murder team, led by Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, know that they must get the best picture they can and time is not on their side. If the detectives rush out a poor picture, they face the risk that possible witnesses will eliminate suspects because they do not match it. Yesterday a specialist search team often used after terrorist attacks was in Cowan Avenue and nearby streets looking for the murder weapon.

## Police grapple with mystery of gunman's motive

### KOSOVO CONNECTION

**Theory:** Miss Dando was the victim of a Serb killer acting in revenge for the bombing last week of the Serbian television station in Belgrade.

**Evidence:** Last week she presented a television charity appeal for the victims of the Kosovo conflict. Two anonymous callers to the BBC and one to ITN have claimed that there is a Balkan link to the murder. Several Serb television workers were killed in the Nato bombing, which the British Government justified as an attack on "the ministry of lies in Milosevic's one-medium state". The murder of such a prominent BBC employee might be seen by a Serb as apt revenge.

**Likelihood:** Far-fetched theory but not ruled out by the police.

### PERSONAL REVENGE

**Theory:** She was killed by someone who knew her either in her personal or professional life.

**Evidence:** An admirer could have become jealous after learning of her engagement to Alan Farthing, 35, a gynaecologist. Police are questioning all those close to her, including Dr Farthing. They have searched his townhouse in Chiswick, West London. They have also spoken to her former boyfriend, Simon Basil, 33, a former game park warden who is now a computer analyst in Hampshire. She met him in January 1997 when she went to film in South Africa. Women are more often killed by people known to them but police emphasise that neither Dr Farthing nor any former boyfriend is a suspect.

**Likelihood:** Possible and being investigated.

### OBSESSED FAN

**Theory:** She was killed by a stalker who was infatuated with her.

**Evidence:** Miss Dando had expressed concern about her safety but not recently. As with all women television celebrities she attracted her fair share of fans and fanmail. Several websites were devoted to her. Last year she was bothered by an obsessive fan who was warned off by the BBC. Someone who believed himself to be in love with her could have been pushed over the edge by the news of her forthcoming marriage.

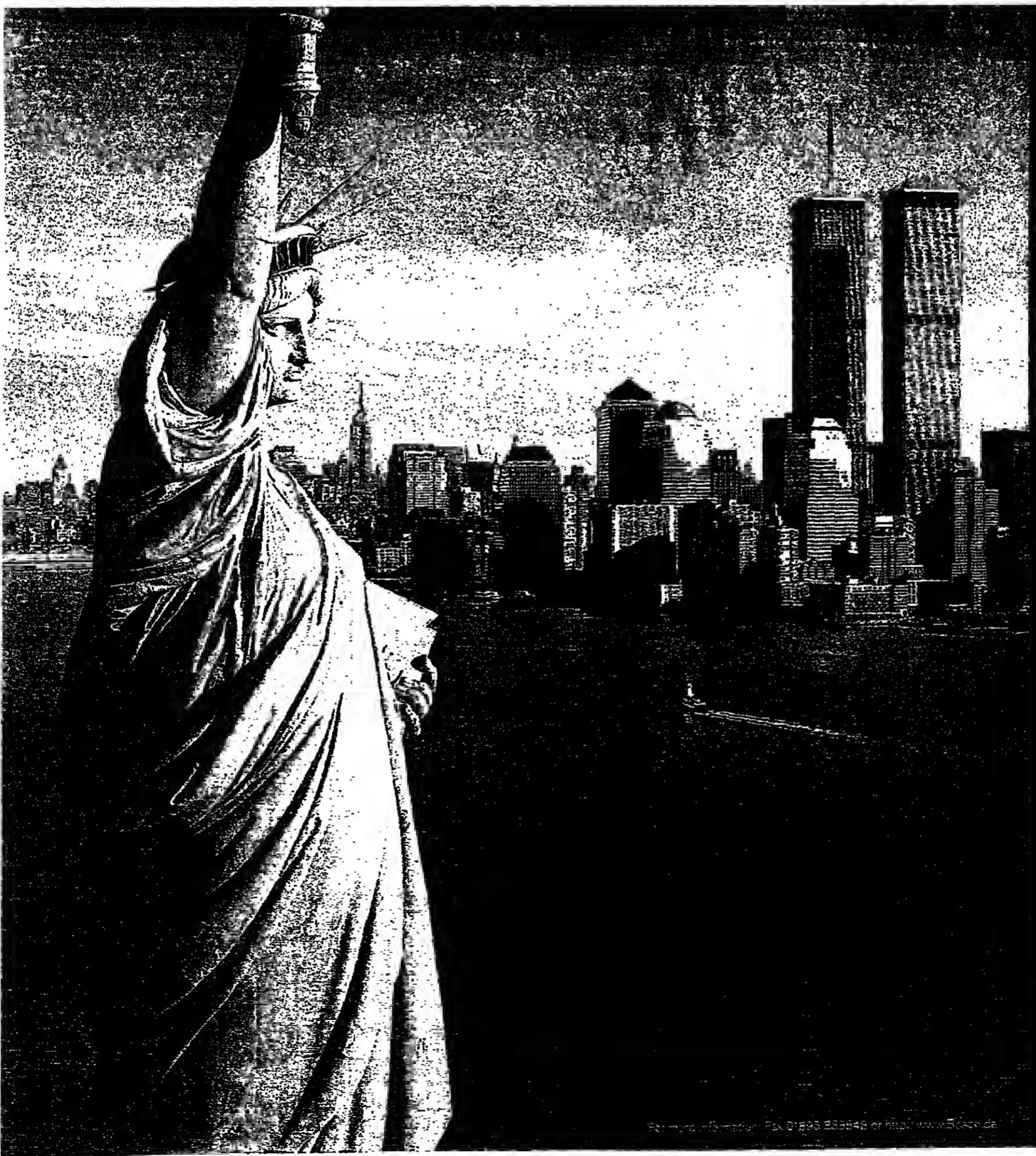
**Likelihood:** Possible and police are treating it seriously. But people with obsessions very rarely kill the object of their infatuation. The shooting was also too clinical to suggest that the killer was an emotionally tortured fan.

### CRIMEWATCH GRUDGE

**Theory:** A criminal brought to justice by the BBC1 programme *Crimewatch* sought revenge by hiring a professional hitman.

**Evidence:** Miss Dando co-presented the programme for four years. In that time it featured nearly 500 crimes and about a third were solved. Police are examining *Crimewatch* files to see which criminals have recently been released from jail. Few of the offences featured in the programme involved the sort of gangland crime likely to provoke a revenge killing. Nick Ross, her co-presenter, does not believe there is a *Crimewatch* connection.

**Likelihood:** Police consider it very unlikely. A professional killer would not have worked without gloves and a well-thought out escape route.



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*Refuge, a national lifeline for women and children experiencing domestic violence, shares these concerns about the impact of the Bill.*

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# Poet of the Dome will pen ode to new era

BY MARK HENDERSON

POETRY was assured of its place in the Millennium Dome yesterday when Simon Armitage was appointed as poet-in-residence.

Armitage, a Yorkshireman and one of Britain's foremost young poets, will spend six months based at Greenwich composing a 1,000-line ode to Britain's celebrations. He will be paid £5,000.

He will perform the completed work in the Dome and at venues across the country. He is also likely to read extracts at the New Year's Eve celebrations, though a full reading would probably be considered too long.

"I'm a slow reader and a thousand lines would take me about an hour," Armitage said. But he added: "If people are sober and patient enough to sit through that on millennium night, I'll do it."

The poem, which he promises will rhyme, will be published as a book. Extracts will feature around the Dome, possibly in zones for which they are appropriate.

Composing a poem to mark an event of such importance

would usually be a job for the Poet Laureate, a position that remains vacant since the death last year of Ted Hughes. Armitage is considered a strong option for the post, though not a frontrunner, and the commission is certain to boost his candidacy.

Armitage, 35 and a former probation officer, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize for his first collection of poems, *Zoom!* and is a winner of the Forward Prize for poetry. He writes on modern and accessible subjects

such as the retirement of Eric Cantona — and is a regular radio broadcaster.

His appointment will be seen as a gesture towards the North, where hostility towards the perceived London focus of the Dome is strong. He still lives in his home town of Huddersfield and will travel the nation for inspiration.

Yesterday, visiting the Dome for the first time, he said: "I want to capture the mood of the time and the what people make of the millennium. I'm not clear yet where it's going to take me — that's part of the excitement."

His style and appeal to the young are thought to have influenced his appointment, which is being funded by the Poetry Society's Poetry Places lottery scheme. Schoolchildren recently voted him their second favourite for Poet Laureate, after Seamus Heaney.

Yesterday the New Millennium Experience Company announced three new sponsorship deals — with Typhoo, Kodak and Mars — bringing the total to £144 million, just short of the £150 million target. It also said that 210,000 free tickets to the Dome would be offered to Greenwich residents.

Armitage will capture mood of the nation

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"Blade of light": the bridge is expected to carry four million people a year between St Paul's and the new Tate Gallery



On site yesterday: Sir Norman Foster and John Prescott

## Thames footbridge will be a lifesaver

BY MARK HENDERSON

LONDON'S first new bridge across the Thames for more than a century is to have an innovative anti-suicide design. Curving balustrades will make it almost impossible for anyone to attempt to leap to their death.

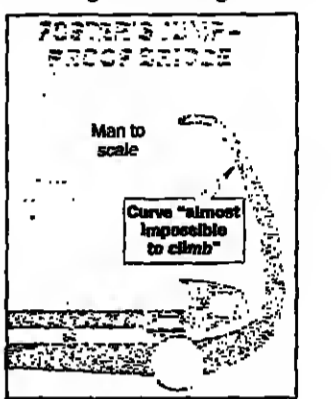
Construction began yesterday on the £16 million Millennium Bridge, which received a £7 million lottery grant. The architect Sir Norman Foster, who designed the footbridge with the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro and the engineer Professor Chris Wise, said: "The contoured shape of the handrail makes it almost impossible to climb."

The low-level suspension bridge, which will link St Paul's Cathedral and the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, will be supported by stainless-steel balustrades that will curve away from the pedestrians. The balustrades 5ft high and curve mean that only the most determined would be able to climb over. The four million people a year expected to use the bridge will not, however, have their views of the river-

side disturbed by high safety fences.

When it opens next April it will be London's first footbridge since Roman times and the first new bridge in Central London since Tower Bridge in 1894. At night it will be lit up to span the Thames with a "blade of light".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, officially launched construction yesterday. A second footbridge is being built with Millennium Commission funding upriver, beside the railway track on Hangerford Bridge.



## Scientists train bees to detect landmines

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HONEY bees are being trained by scientists to detect landmines in the hope that they can help clear vast areas where the deadly weapons have been buried and forgotten.

The work hinges on the ability of the bees to pick up dust and airborne chemicals on their bodies. Trace levels of TNT, the explosive commonly used in landmines, can be found in the air around the buried weapons. It may also be absorbed from the soil

into the pollen of flowering plants and picked up by the bees as they forage for nectar. The bees can then be screened for explosive chemicals on their return to the hive.

Jerry Bromenshenk, a bee expert at the University of Montana at Missoula and one of the team, said: "Bees are like flying dust mops. Wherever they go, they pick up dust, airborne chemicals and other samples on their fuzzy, statically charged bodies."

The scientists are also training bees to sniff out TNT chemicals by teaching them to link the smell of

explosives with the smell of sugary substances. New bee colonies are given feeders with sugary water tainted with a marker chemical. The feeders have then been moved further away from the hive and eventually removed altogether.

Dr Bromenshenk said the bees

were found foraging in areas where the marker chemical had been put down before returning to the hive.

Susan Bender, of the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said: "The beauty of this approach is that bees are indigenous to nearly every climate on earth and there are beekeepers everywhere. You won't need a million-dollar piece of equipment and extensive training. The countries where landmines are a problem typically don't have those kinds of resources."

The Red Cross estimates that between 80 million and 120 million landmines are buried across the world, notably in Angola and Cambodia. An average of 60 people are maimed or killed by them every day.

Researchers at the Natural Resources Institute — part of the University of Greenwich — in Malvern, Worcestershire, have developed tiny antennae to attach to bees so that they can be tracked by radar.

Alan Smith, of the institute's radar entomology group, said: "You can tell the range and direction of a bee every three seconds."

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# MPs demand revenge of the school swot

THOUSANDS of Britain's brightest children are being let down by their schools and ostracised by their classmates as "swots and boffins", according to MPs yesterday.

Successive governments have neglected the most able pupils in their efforts to raise standards in schools, according to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education. Even the literacy hour, introduced in primary schools this year, was not sufficiently flexible to cater for the clever.

The cross-party group called for a national strategy to enhance the potential of bright pupils. Among the suggestions were Nobel Prize winners to teach top sixth-formers, via the Internet. Malcolm Wicks, the committee's chairman, said: "It would be ridiculous if the undiscovered Einstein or the undiscovered Mozart just had to plod through the A-level curriculum."

The six-month inquiry concluded that too many schools were unable or unwilling to cater to their brightest pupils. Some experts believed that up to 40 per cent of children should be considered "highly able" in one or more subject.

Mr Wicks said: "As a nation, over the past 20 years we

Government  
accused of  
neglecting  
most able  
pupils, reports  
John O'Leary

have focused on overall standards and, quite properly, been concerned about children who are doing less well. That means there is a danger that Britain's brightest children sometimes get a raw deal. We must ensure that good minds, a precious asset, are encouraged and not neglected."

The MPs report called for named individuals to be responsible for the brightest children in each school and local authority. But it rejected any single blueprint for teaching the most able, declaring that some would thrive in selective schools, while others would do better in comprehensives.

The committee said schools should be able to provide the stimulation that the most able children needed. Without suitable programmes, some

would become frustrated and even disruptive.

Better links between schools and universities were one key to improved provision for children who could easily do A-levels. Academics could set and mark dissertations to stretch teenagers at school.

Among other recommendations were better training for teachers to recognise and teach children of high ability, and more flexibility in initiatives such as the National Literacy Strategy to avoid boring the brightest children.

But the report noted that first there must be a change in attitude regarding the education of bright children. One group that supports gifted children told the committee that it was not "cool" to be bright in many schools. Able children were dismissed as "swots".

Mr Wicks said bright children were sometimes bullied and ostracised. "Maybe this is something to do with a society in which intellectual figures are derided."

But the report insists that schools should remember that highly able children were still in their youth. They should be allowed to enjoy their childhood and not be treated as "brains on legs".



Students of self-hypnosis: from left, Matthew Chapman, Kirsty McGreany, Lindsey Lowe and Daniella Jones

## Hypnosis beats exam stress

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE headmaster of a comprehensive school in Cheshire turned to a hypnotist for help when a group of GCSE pupils complained of examination stress. The students, aged 15 and 16, said that a paralysing anxiety left them unable to revise.

Graham Nelmes, head of the 1,230-pupil Priestnall School, in Heaton Mersey, near Stockport, invited Anne Jakubowska, 50, a qualified hypnotist, to the school to help them.

She conducted three one-hour sessions with the group of two boys and five girls, using her soothing voice and the power of imagination to encourage

them to unburden themselves and learn to relax.

Mrs Jakubowska hopes to be invited back to the school and that the sessions might become an annual feature in the run-up to examinations. She said that the kind of hypnosis she specialised in bore little resemblance to the theatricality of stage hypnotists.

"Hypnosis has nothing magical about it," she said. "We do not dangle anything and we don't put anybody under. They just allow themselves to become pleasantly relaxed."

"We had three sessions where we worked with the power of positive suggestion, concentrating on improving their study skills and how to help them control their anxieties."

Each pupil was given a 20-minute tape recording to switch on whenever they felt under stress.

The school turned to Mrs Jakubowska because she was a former member of the parent-teacher association. She said that the improving powers of self-hypnosis had helped her two sons, both former pupils, in their studies, one of them becoming head boy.

Dr Nelmes said he was not aware of any other school using the services of a trained hypnotist.

He said: "We have a number of ways of preparing students for exams and this is just one more. The students have found it quite useful as a way of taking their minds off the pressures involved."

## Maths pupils are worse than feared

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

PRIMARY schools appear unlikely to hit ambitious targets for mathematics after government advisers admitted that gaps in 11-year-olds' knowledge is greater than ministers thought.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, attributed a 3 per cent drop in national test results last summer to the introduction of mental arithmetic tests. A subsequent analysis by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has shown that they were responsible for only about a third of the decline.

Nick Tate, the QCA chief executive, said ministers and officials had assumed that the unexpected dip, the first in five years of testing, was due to schools' inexperience in preparing children for mental arithmetic questions. "It was a perfectly reasonable assumption to make that this was the major factor. It was a contributory factor, but not the most significant one."

The authority's evaluation of the tests showed a more general decline in performance at a time when a 4 per cent improvement was needed to maintain progress towards the Government's target. Mr Blunkett has staked his reputation on 75 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching the expected level for their age by 2001, but last year only 59 per cent did so. Coming less than a week before the start of this year's tests, the disclosure underlines the precarious state of the Government's standards agenda.

### SUM TOTALS

There were 20 questions in the 30-minute mental arithmetic test, which will be similar this year. Pupils were asked to divide nine by three and add seven, and to calculate half of 3.6. Another question asked: "Alex paid for a tape with a £5 note and received £1.25 change. How much did the tape cost?"

However, Mr Tate said: "It would be disastrous for anyone in the education system to assume that we cannot do better than we are currently doing. We have to assume that there is potential for continuous improvement. We don't know what the results are going to be like this year, but we hope they are going to improve."

Martin Ripley, the QCA's principal manager for test development and administration, acknowledged that test results inevitably tended to "plateau" after initial improvement. But he said that pre-testing suggested that children were better prepared in mental arithmetic this year and that government guidelines on the teaching of numeracy should start to have an effect.

## Sailor vanishes from lost yacht

By PAUL WILKINSON, NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

A BOAT belonging to a solo yachtsman who set off on a trip of about 15 miles has been found drifting, empty, more than 400 miles away.

Peter Bloomer, 51, an experienced amateur sailor, left the Neptune Marina at Ipswich aboard his 33ft boat, *Tropical Spirit*, at lunchtime on Saturday, April 17. He told staff that he planned to sail down the coast to Walton on the Naze, Essex, to explore coastal creeks, staying away overnight.

When he had not returned by Monday, April 19, an extensive search of the East Anglian coast was made, but nothing was found. Ports in France, Belgium and The Netherlands were alerted in case Mr Bloomer had decided to head for the Continent.

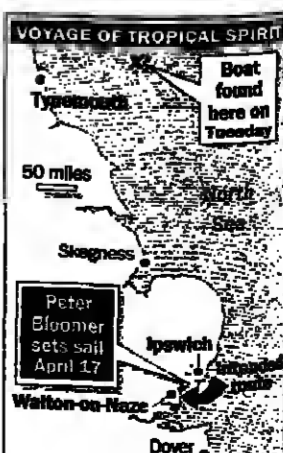
His single-masted sloop was not seen again until two days ago, when it was sighted 130 miles northeast of Tynemouth in Northumberland by a Ministry of Agriculture fisheries protection aircraft on a routine patrol. The sails were up but no one was at the helm.

HMS Leeds Castle, a fish-

eries protection vessel, went to the scene and found Mr Bloomer's passport, a diary and his mobile telephone, but no sign of him.

A Coastguard spokesman said yesterday: "There are no obvious clues about what may have happened to him. We may have to assume that he went overboard and has drowned."

Mr Bloomer, who runs a shipping company, Concept Caribbean, in Felixstowe, Suffolk, is married with two sons, aged 19 and ten.



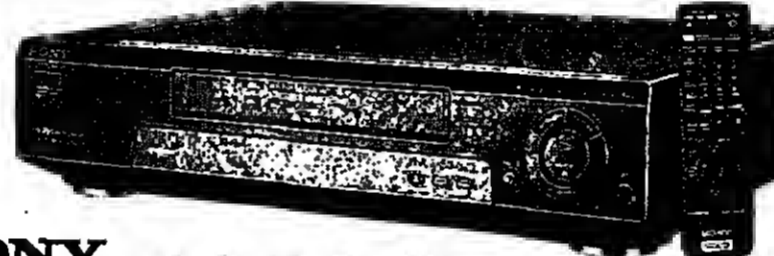
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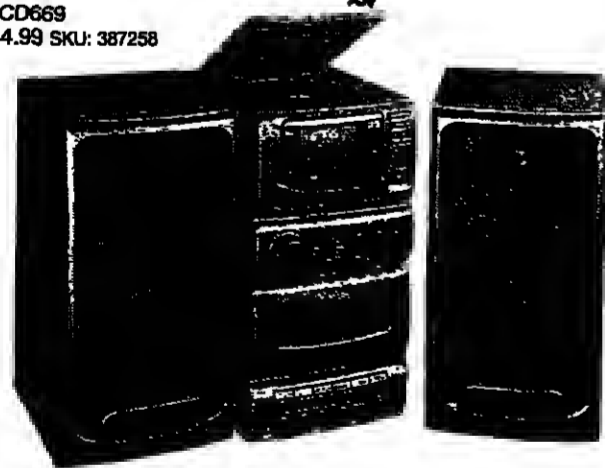
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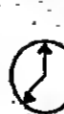
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The new left hand drive Beetle

# Bar puts case against Irvine's legal aid cuts

THE Lord Chancellor faced a fresh onslaught yesterday over legal aid cuts when the Bar — his own branch of the legal profession — turned its wrath on him.

The Bar is urging the Government to amend the Access to Justice Bill, which is in its committee stage today, to preserve legal aid for vulnerable groups.

It also wants enshrined in the Bill a fundamental principle, inserted by the Lords after a Government defeat, that access to justice must be provided to people without means, to the disabled and those in deprived areas.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's plans to end legal aid for personal injury cases will affect the old, the young and the disabled, the Bar says. The Lord Chancellor insists that they will be protected by a hardship fund and the £1.6 billion annual legal aid bill will remain intact.

Dan Brennan, QC, Bar Chairman, said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor says that these are the very people who are protected under his legal aid reforms. If that is the case, why not put it in the Bill?"

"At present these people are protected under the legal aid system. Unless their future entitlement to pursue such claims is guaranteed, legal aid should be preserved for them."

**Lawyers seek guarantees for vulnerable groups without means, writes Frances Gibb**

Without such a guarantee, he said, the "most vulnerable people in society" would not have state protection.

He also hit back at the Lord Chancellor's comments that lawyers' protests arose from concern about their incomes. "The poverty of this argument is endorsed by its constant repetition," Mr Brennan said. "It is a stereotypical accusation that has become so hackneyed that people do not pay it any attention."

Nobody, he said, accused doctors and nurses of being concerned about their incomes when they complained about inefficiencies and lack of services in the NHS. "Lord Irvine does not say that they are lining their own pockets."

The Bar's attack adds weight to the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, which this week, backed by a coalition of consumer and other groups, started a £700,000

advertising campaign against the proposals.

The Government proposes to scrap legal aid for personal injury cases, and instead to rely on lawyers taking the cases on a "no win, no fee" basis, supported by insurance to cover the risk of having to pay the other side's legal costs. Lawyers say this will mean a wide swath of difficult but deserving cases which cannot be pursued.

The insurance will be too costly and the risks too great for any lawyer to take many cases on, they say.

The reforms are aimed at ensuring legal aid goes on to the most deserving cases and that lawyers do not run weak or speculative claims on taxpayers' money.

Lord Irvine insists that a "hard cases" fund will be set up specifically to protect such cases. But the Bar, Law Society, Consumers' Association and others want this enshrined in the legislation.

Lord Irvine yesterday renewed his own attack on the Law Society over what he described as its "misleading" advertisements. In letters to newspaper editors, he said that "vulnerable people will have been caused unnecessary worry".

Leading article, page 23



Legal aid enabled Trevor Jones to win £1 million in damages — and his independence

# Cash awards that made life worth living

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG, old and disabled people are the three groups that will suffer from the loss of legal aid, the Bar says.

Trevor Jones, 38, is paralysed from the shoulders down after breaking his neck in a skiing accident ten years ago when in the Royal Navy. His case was difficult because of the lack of an obvious defendant: the accident happened when he swerved to avoid tourists cutting across the course.

After investigations, it emerged that his MoD-engaged instructor had ordered him down the course without having a proper view. The MoD was sued and more than £1 million in damages recovered.

His solicitor, John Cahill, said: "The damages have secured him a monthly income for life and given him technological equipment which has radically changed his quality of life." Without legal aid, he added, the case would not have been brought. All costs were recovered.

Mr Jones, who needs 24-hour care, is seeking sponsors for a round-the-world voyage in a wingsail yacht. He said yesterday: "The difference in having the award is enormous. I have a wheelchair which cost £15,000 and a car which cost £40,000. It has given me independence."

Richard Charlton, now 11, needs round-the-clock care. Before he was born his mother was involved in a road acci-

dent that injured them both. His parents could not care for him and he is with foster parents. With legal aid, a claim was brought against the other motorist and the settlement in his favour amounted to more than £1 million. That will provide him with care, aids and housing should he outlive his foster parents, now 70 and 64.

His barrister, David Wilby, QC, said that Richard has no voluntary limb, head or spine control. He has poor vision, and has a colostomy and is doubly incontinent. "He can smile and laugh and express concern and annoyance. He clearly loves his foster parents and his environment and he attends a special school."

Mr Wilby said that none of his care would have been possible without legal aid.

Mrs W, from Southend-on-Sea, tripped after falling over a milkcrate outside a newsagents, suffering significant injuries. She sued the shopkeeper, but he contested the action. Each had witnesses with differing stories as to how she fell.

Nigel Cooksley, the barrister who handled the case, said: "This was going to be a difficult one to prove because of the conflicting evidence. Mrs W was able to get legal aid and secured a £10,000 settlement on the steps of the court."

No solicitor would have touched the action under a "no win, no fee" agreement and all costs were recovered, he said.

# Students take a shine to token effort

BY HANNAH BETTS

CITY Airport shoeshine supremo Stephen Reynolds has earned a place in *The Times* Free Books for Schools pantheon by collecting thousands of tokens for an East London school.

A delegation of ten-children from Woolmore Primary School, Tower Hamlets, had a tour of the airport yesterday when they went to collect 2,500 tokens. They also tried their hand at shining shoes.

"We had great fun," said Mr Reynolds. "I've got my eye on a couple of them as budding apprentices. But I made sure to tell them that a morning out of school meant that they'd have to go back and catch up on their reading."

Mr Reynolds announced in *The Times* in February that he was looking for a school to be the beneficiary of his impressive token collection.

Many of the tokens had been plucked from the newspapers of customers while they enjoyed Mr Reynolds' work. Others had been gathered from the many travellers who pass through the airport.

Woolmore Primary is a culturally diverse school where 70 per cent of the children have English as an additional language. Pupils are given every encouragement to enjoy books, from a lunchtime reading scheme with council workers from Tower Hamlets, to

# Mayor to serve extra 200 hours

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Mayor of Labour-controlled Blaenau Gwent Council in South Wales was ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service for fiddling his expenses. Steven Bartlett, 52, was sentenced on two counts of false accounting which he had denied before Newport magistrates earlier this month. In all, 13 councillors face such charges.

The court had heard that in 1996 he submitted a claim for a £101 first-class train fare although he had bought a £38 ticket. He also claimed more than he should for a car journey to a Brighton conference.

Mark Powell, defending, said that Bartlett had often undercharged the authority. He had repaid the money and was leaving politics.

**Jail for 'air rage'**

Paul Street, 31, from Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, was jailed for four months at Epsom, Co Clare, after pleading guilty to using threatening, abusive behaviour on board a London-bound American Airlines Boeing 767 on Saturday. The aircraft had to divert to Shannon.

**Bridge ban**

May Morning revellers in Oxford are being barred from Magdalen Bridge because of safety fears. In the past students have jumped from the bridge into the Thames. About 20,000 people had been expected to gather there at daybreak on Saturday to hear Magdalen School choir.

**Handling charge**

A "don't touch" helpline was opened to save thousands of baby birds from unnecessary handling. Many are "rescued" from the ground and taken to the RSPCA, when they would be better off left alone as parents will feed them. The (£0p a minute) number is 09096 71121.

**Court agreement**

Channel 4 is to go ahead later this year with a documentary series on homeless teenage children after an action in the High Court brought by Nottingham City Council. The identities of two girls in *Slaying Lost* will be obscured. Two other children have withdrawn their consent and will not be appearing.

# Embassy linked to sex trade

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A CORRUPT official in the British Embassy in Bangkok has been supplying visas to Thai women who have been recruited by Triad gangs in a trade described as "the closest thing to slavery that Western Europe has to offer", it is claimed in a programme to be broadcast tonight.

The women are brought to massage parlours in Britain under contracts which force them to service up to 700 men without receiving a penny. Many think they are going to be given jobs as waitresses in Thai restaurants.

One such girl told how she was beaten into a semi-coma when she refused.

The investigation by London Weekend Television reporter Lee Sorrell, who was infiltrated into the trafficking groups by *The Times* correspondent in Bangkok, also showed how British expatriates were more than happy to help the Triad gangs by recruiting girls and acting as "jockeys", bringing them into Britain as their girlfriends.

British-Canadian Glen Mac-

kenzie-Smith, 46, whose cover in Bangkok was as an English language teacher, was a willing fixer for a gang headed in Bangkok by a Chinese Thai called Boon Tam.

London remains the main destination but Glasgow and Edinburgh figure high on all traffickers' client lists.

Photographs taken in Britain and obtained by *The Times* show how the gangs take the girls sightseeing and send the photographs home to convince other girls that they will be well treated.

□ *The Sex Slave Trade*, Channel 4, tonight at 9 pm.

**TODAY IN SECTION 2**

Malcolm Bradbury on the modern library: what it is and who's out

Peter Ackroyd on the religion of science

Books, pages 40-41

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## Exotic fru a fare ne

BY ROBIN YOUNG

It's a new papaya — spruce, tangy, a little bit like a mango — that's the star of the show at the new exotic fruit stall in the market. The stall is a small, simple structure, but it's the fruit that's the attraction. There's a large display of papayas, some of which are still in their green, unripe state, while others are ripe and ready to eat. The stall is run by a man who is passionate about his fruit, and he's happy to talk to anyone who's interested. He says that the papayas are a great source of vitamin C, and that they're also a good source of fibre. He also says that they're a great fruit for children, and that they're a good fruit for people who are looking for a healthy snack. The stall is a great addition to the market, and it's a great place to go if you're looking for some exotic fruit.

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# First showing of the prince and the pawpaw

Detail in royal portrait suggests oranges were not the only fruit in Queen's hothouse, says Russell Jenkins

FRESH research into a Van Dyck masterpiece suggests that homegrown tropical fruit may have been everyday fare on the royal dining table in the time of Charles I.

Xanthe Brooke, curator of European art at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, has identified the fruit featured in the painter's *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I* (1637) as a pawpaw.

It is believed to be the earliest recorded image of the exotic fruit, discovered in South American Caribbean in the early 17th century, in this country. Ms Brooke speculates that it was grown in Queen Henrietta Maria's greenhouses, where oranges were also produced for the royal table.

The painting, part of the Royal Collection, was originally hung in the breakfast room at the Whitehall Palace, later burnt down. King Charles was known to be fond of it.

The painting normally hangs at Windsor Castle but has been loaned by the Queen to the Walker Gallery, where it goes on show tomorrow until July 18.

Much of the scholarly interest in the painting has concentrated on the images of the children and their relationship with the huge dog. Ms Brooke said: "Identification of the pawpaw is partly hypothesis and supposition between myself and the head of botany at the Liverpool Museum. The still life has not been described in any entry or description of the painting. It has been ignored."

The painting also features a Lyme masoff dog, a breed that has been extinct for almost a century. They were originally bred at Lyme Park in Cheshire as a hunting dog and to fight bears. But they were favoured as pets because of their docility with children. The painting shows the dog being stroked by the future Charles II.

In the 16th and 17th centuries they were given as diplomatic gifts. In 1604 James I gave a pair to Philip of Spain to mark the signing of a peace treaty. The breed died out in the early years of this century.

Ms Brooke said: "These mastiffs were used as guard dogs as well as for hunting. In the painting the dog is guarding the children, but he was obviously a bit of a softie. A King Charles spaniel is also featured in this picture and is dwarfed by the mastiff."

The discovery of the paw-

paw shows that exotic fruit adorned King Charles's dining table long before they were routinely shipped from the New World, at the end of the 17th century. Only the hardiest examples would have survived the trip from the West Indies, suggesting the Queen may have cultivated them in the hothouses at Windsor.

Ms Brooke said: "It is clearly no accident that the pawpaw is in the painting. Essentially, she was showing-off and Van Dyck was probably delighted to include it as a novel detail."

The Royal Horticultural Society said the discovery was a startling revelation. It added that there were no known records of pawpaw being cultivated in Britain.



The pawpaw can be seen beside the bowl in the top right of Van Dyck's *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I*, which was painted in 1637



The pawpaw: from New World to royal table

## Exotic fruit now a fare necessity

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE pawpaw — or papaya — celebrated in song by Baloo the Bear in *The Jungle Book*, has become one of the most familiar exotic fruits on Britain's supermarket shelves. Sales have increased more than tenfold in a decade. Tonnage rose by half from 1996 to 1997 when 3,700 tonnes were brought in, and annual sales are believed now to have topped £10 million.

From tropical America, it is now grown in most tropical and sub-tropical regions and comes from a fast-growing plant that fruits from the central stem after only a year. Pawpaw can be eaten as a fruit or vegetable, usually

sprinkled with lemon or lime juice and/or sugar. It can be diced in salads, makes good sorbets, mousses and ice-creams and is used for chutneys and jams.

The seeds can be liquidised as a salad dressing, having a spicy mustard and cress flavour. They can be dried and used as a spice and, in Australia, Aborigines considered them an aphrodisiac.

Pawpaws typically contain 39 calories per 100g, have more vitamin C than oranges and are a good source of vitamin A and of dietary fibre. They are well stocked with phytonutrients, thought valuable in combating disease.

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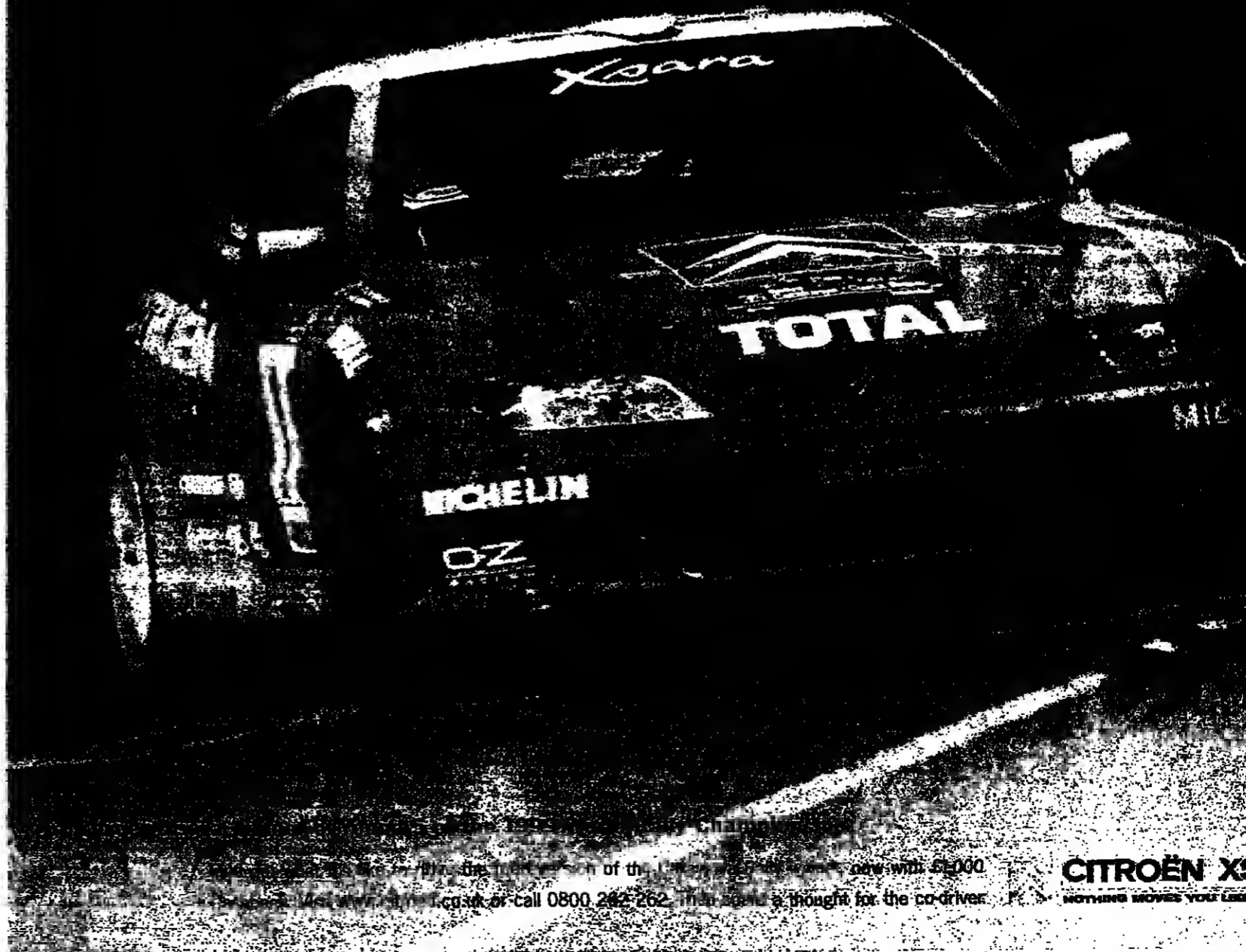
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# Tebbit surgeon was dismissed after blunders

A DISTINGUISHED surgeon who was made an OBE for helping to save Lord Tebbit's wife after the Brighton bombing was sacked after a series of life-threatening blunders during operations, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

David Skidmore perforated a woman's artery during keyhole surgery to remove her gall bladder the day after he lacerated another patient's liver during another keyhole operation. The woman whose artery was pierced required emergency heart resuscitation and a blood transfusion to stop her bleeding to death.

The operations were the culmination of a catalogue of errors that caused "major anxieties" among Mr Skidmore's colleagues at the Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent, in 1997, said Paul Key, medical director of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

He told the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: "It was not one colleague but several raising concerns. Both myself and the clinical director decided we would recommend sus-

Senior medical figure claims victimisation over criticism of NHS, writes Joanna Bale

pension leading to dismissal. As medical director I had a duty to act."

Dr Key said he realised that two operations had gone wrong on consecutive days only when the husband of one of the women told him that the patients had been in adjoining beds and had been comparing their ordeals.

Mr Skidmore, 59, who was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct in 1997, was also accused of lying to patients and colleagues to play down the blunders. Dr Key added: "Mr Skidmore was a senior consultant. Consultants are regularly unsupervised and it is imperative that, in their dealings with the trust, other professionals and patients, they observe complete integrity."

He added: "The findings of the chief executive, upheld on appeal, meant that Mr Skidmore had on several occasions told untruths which were compounded by his persistence in them over a two-day disciplinary hearing."

Earlier in the hearing, Mr Skidmore's lawyer, Anthony Temple, QC, said the surgeon, who lectures at University College and Middlesex hospitals in London, had been the victim of a malicious campaign because of his criticism of hos-

pital management both before and after NHS reforms.

The hearing, in which Mr Skidmore is claiming unfair dismissal, is being regarded by some as a challenge by doctors about who should run hospitals — senior medical staff or non-medical managers.

Mr Skidmore is seeking reinstatement, claiming that the complaints against him do not amount to misconduct because six cases questioning his clinical competence were rejected by the GMC.

Mr Skidmore, who worked at Joyce Green Hospital from 1980, as well as West Hill and North Kent hospitals, has frequently criticised the management of NHS hospitals and trusts. In 1990 he criticised the then South East Thames Regional Health Authority for overspending its budget and seeking credit from suppliers.

The hearing is expected to last three weeks.



Bernadine Coady resting after the "painless" operation on her foot

# Trance helps patient to blank out pain

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NURSING home matron returned to work yesterday, two days after a painful operation on her foot under self-hypnosis.

Bernadine Coady, 58, who was worried about having an anaesthetic because she has a trait of sickle-cell anaemia, put herself into a trance, a technique she learnt five years ago while studying for a diploma course at the British School of Hypnosis.

Mrs Coady, who came to Britain 30 years ago from Belize to train as a nurse, had the operation to reconstruct the bones in her foot so that she could walk without pain. Despite a warning that the procedure would involve cutting muscles and tendons and sawing through bone, she decided against having an anaesthetic because of her condition, in which the blood can easily be starved of oxygen. She had originally booked a hypnotist to come to the Fitzwilliam Hospital, in Peterborough. Ahmed Shair, her surgeon, had agreed the arrangement with the hospital, but took the precaution of having an anaesthetist on standby in case Mrs Coady was unable to bear the pain.

At the last minute the hypnotist failed to show up and Mrs Coady decided to hypnotise herself. "I imagined my leg as an iron rod and that, when I heard the instruments, it was them knocking against the iron bar. I

said to myself that, if I had any pain, I was going to liken it to waves lashing against a sea wall. Every time it happened, I thought it was the pain going away, like the tide."

Mrs Coady, from Wimblesborough, Cambridgeshire, said: "I worked on the pain. I was aware of everything that was going on. This is the power of the mind, or madness. If surgeons could open their minds to it, you would find more people doing it."

Mr Shair said that he had over performed an operation in such a manner in his 20 years as a surgeon. "She was in absolute control."

The operation requires an overnight stay to recover, but Mrs Coady was able to go home hours later.

Kenneth Phillips, a retired GP who works in Harley Street, said all hypnosis was self-hypnosis. "People who become hypnotised have to be capable of transferring their conscious mind somewhere else." He would like to see hypnosis used more commonly in surgery. "Every anaesthetic is a risk but, with hypnosis, there is virtually no risk." There is also less bleeding.

**LINKS**  
<http://www.hypnosis.org.uk/orgs.htm> Information and register of medical hypnosis organisations



Skidmore: accused of lying to patients

## Adverts are the price of free phone calls

By CHRIS AYRES

TELEPHONE bills could soon become a thing of the past for callers willing to interrupt their conversations every few minutes to listen to a commercial break.

Britain's first "free" national telephone service, Free2Talk, will be launched in July by Freedom Telecom, a little-known telephone company in which the television presenter Noel Edmonds is an investor. Freedom, run by a 26-year-old entrepreneur, Joshua Sayles, has spent £18 million setting up the service, which it will launch in partnership with the Energis telephone company.

An almost identical service provided by BT will go on trial next month in Bristol and Tyne and Wear, and is expected to be launched nationally later this year.

Customers who want to take advantage of either service will have to fill in a questionnaire, detailing their shopping habits, age, sex and income. They will then be given an access code.

Both services are likely to be aimed at young people, students and low-income households. Freedom's service is expected to play adverts every five minutes, while BT's will be every two minutes.

Similar services have proved a success in Stockholm, where a small company, Gratistel, has gained a 7 per cent market share.

## US girls find that thin is beautiful

By ALEX O'CONNELL

SKINNY teenage girls are more likely to go out with boys than their curvier peers, according to a new study.

A mere 19lb can be the difference between getting a date and missing out, says a report by Carolyn Halpern, an assistant professor of maternal and child health at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr Halpern, whose study set out to investigate the implications of body fat on sexual activity, said: "One reason adolescent girls are concerned about their weight is that they believe that being slim increases their chances of dating. Our data indicates they are right."

Researchers followed 200 white and black girls aged 13 and 14 for two years. They found that a girl of average height and weight in the group — around 5ft 3in tall and weighing 9 stone — was only half as likely to date as a girl of the same height and physical maturity weighing 7 stone 9lb.

However, the American findings seem to be out of kilter with the current British trend for normal-sized, healthy-looking teenage pop stars and actresses. Posters of the boxom 16-year-old pop singer, Billie, are currently on the bedroom walls of adolescent boys across the country.

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## Westminster must not look down on Scots

Life will never be the same again at Westminster. The election of the Scottish parliament in a week's time will not only change politics for ever north of the border, it will also have far-reaching, yet little appreciated, consequences for the House of Commons.

Recent polls suggest that around 15 members of the Commons (plus nine former MPs) are likely to become members of the parliament in Edinburgh. Most of them will probably be part-timers at Westminster, like some Northern Ireland MPs are now.

But the position of all 72 Scottish MPs has changed. This is not only about the long-debated, important, yet unresolved West Lothian question, the anomaly whereby Scottish MPs can vote on health, education and other devolved matters affecting people in England, but not their constituents north of the border.

Much of the day-to-day postbags of MPs concern just those domestic issues which are being devolved. So should a member of the Commons pass on a letter to the member of the Scottish parliament who will, after all, represent the same area? There may be problems even if the two members are of the same party, given the prickly egos of many politicians. Also, what will the Scottish MPs do at Westminster? Not all are like Gordon Brown or Robin Cook. There are several poor quality MPs from in and around Glasgow who have little to say on national, as opposed to devolved, issues.

Scotland will have a mosaic of representation. As well as local councillors, Scots will, after May 6, also have one constituency member, and seven regional list members, of the Scottish parliament.

After June 10, Scots will be represented by eight members of the European Parliament. But who should constituents contact? What does rep-

resentation now mean? This issue was addressed at a recent seminar organised by the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Scottish Council Foundation. One theme was "signposts, not no-entry signs", so information should be available about the differing roles of elected members and their specific interests, but there should be no rigid demarcation about who handles what issue.

I doubt if this will be sustainable in the long-term: in Germany, where there is a similar multi-layered structure, most constituency case work is handled at the local or regional/lander levels rather than nationally.

The current view of representation will have to be re-examined. As Matthew Taylor, director of the IPPR, has argued "to compensate for their lack of job satisfaction, MPs have invested more and more time in individual case work for constituents. But while MPs spend an average of more than 30 hours a week on casework which would be better dealt with by local councillors or a strengthened ombudsman, other important roles are largely overlooked".

MPs should, as Mr Taylor argues, see themselves more as civic entrepreneurs, not just dealing with individual cases but also getting people together (councils, businesses and community groups).

The Scottish parliament will also have lessons for Westminster, not just in the semi-circular design of the chamber, or electronic voting, or the "family-friendly" working hours. The proportional electoral system should ensure that no one party has an overall majority, so the emphasis will be on consensus building, co-operation and consultation.

Scotland is a laboratory of democracy, and Westminster should not be superior, as it usually is, about the experience of other legislatures.

Peter Riddell  
ON POLITICS

# Blame it on Basildon

Tory turmoil has its roots in Essex man's input to party's focus groups, writes Andrew Pierce

BASILDON — the 1980s stronghold of Thatcherism — was an unlikely trigger for the biggest crisis of William Hague's leadership.

It was in the home of Essex Man that 12 disillusioned Tory voters gathered round a table in a private house to discuss why they had abandoned the party.

The health service dominated the 90-minute discussion shortly before Easter, the last focus group in target seats including Basingstoke, Redditch, Leeds and Ipswich. The voters met under the watchful eye of ICM, the Tories' polling organisation. Each person was paid £20.

But it proved the most politically expensive focus group the Tories have commissioned. Peter Lilley analysed the thoughts of the Basildon voters, and decided his party had no option but to go for broke — the link with Margaret Thatcher and the free market must be severed.

The result has been the biggest revolt at Conservative party headquarters in living memory. Mr Lilley, once regarded as one of the most thoughtful and Thatcherite figures in the party, is now an isolated and forlorn figure, the brow beneath his thinning fair hair furrowed in fear.

Only Danny Finkelstein, the former SDP member who is head of policy, and David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, are prepared to stand up for Mr Lilley, the blond who dropped the bombshell.

The other two former SDP members now running Central Office — Andrew Cooper, head of operations and Rick Nye, head of research — were sceptics in the first place. They are both furious that focus group research has been used to such disastrous effect.

Mutinous Tory MPs are now demanding Lilley's head in the next reshuffle. "He has to go," one former minister said last night. At headquar-



Lilley: the blond who dropped the bombshell



Hague: the leader who wants to ruffle feathers

### WHO SAID WHAT: THE ROAD TO A U-TURN

■ "Most Conservatives have always accepted that the public services are intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market." Peter Lilley, unannounced first draft of Rab Butler memorial lecture, circulated to Shadow Cabinet, April 15.

■ "We will only renew public confidence if we openly and emphatically accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare." Peter Lilley, preview of Rab Butler lecture in *The Times*, April 19.

■ "In some public services there may

be some scope for introducing diversity and choice among providers of the service and for encouraging public-private partnerships." Peter Lilley, Rab Butler lecture, April 20.

■ "We believe that the private sector, in partnership with the public, can make an important new contribution to the health services in this country." William Hague, in *The Times*, April 23.

■ "Of course it ruffles a few feathers if you do that. But they will have to get unruffled because that is the way I

am going to carry on." William Hague, speaking on Radio 5 Live's *Sunday Breakfast* programme, April 26.

■ "The parliamentary party is in crisis over the Lilley speech." James Arbuthnot, Conservative Chief Whip, April 27.

■ "We will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be champions of the free market..." William Hague, speech to Conservative activists, April 28.

ters his name is mud. Even Mr Hague last night tried to draw a line under the controversy by mentioning Mr Lilley only once in his speech.

"I cannot understand why Lilley made the speech or why he failed to consult us," a senior strategist said. "It is a mess, and it is a serious mess."

"There is great loyalty here to William Hague. I have no doubt he is as redoubtable a Thatcherite as anyone. It is perverse he has found himself in this mess. I can only think he was not properly focussed."

The decision to rewrite the party's philosophy was taken the previous week at the newly formed strategy group chaired by Mr Hague. James Arbuthnot, the Chief Whip, Mr Lilley, Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, were present. They agreed to go on the offensive to try to ditch once and for all the perception that the party was hostile to the NHS. Mr Lilley, who had the Rab Butler lecture in his diary, was nominated.

Francis Maude would follow through with a commitment, which he had made countless times before but had been lost on the voters, to renew the Tories' pledge to match Labour's spending promises on the NHS.

It all went wrong. Mr Lilley showed only the first draft of the speech to Ann Widdecombe and Iain Duncan Smith, who run the health and social security portfolios.

They were to be given final texts but they never materialised. To the fury of both, the final version, which ignored

their objections, was pushed in the next day's papers.

Mr Lilley authorised the spin which continued throughout the week with the suggestion that the Tories would bury the party's Clause Four.

One Thatcherite frontbencher said last night: "If this is merely a matter of a presentational emphasis William Hague will keep most of his support. If it is not, and it is a serious shift in policy, he will not. It is as simple as that."

Leading article, page 23

Michael McInnes, said he was very concerned at Mr Lilley's speech. "When I read it I thought, 'Oh God, not another own goal.'"

Jean Gibbons, acting chairman in Tom King's Bridgewater seat, said it was "not a good moment to be having these internal wrangles".

## Activists bemoan Lilley 'own goal'

By MARK INGFIELD  
POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY activists yesterday expressed concern and dismay about the row dividing the Shadow Cabinet one week before the local elections.

Michael Buxton, Michael Howard's agent in his Folke-

stone and Hythe constituency, said that some party workers were unhappy about the genesis of the row in Peter Lilley's speech last weekend.

A constituency chairman in a Tory seat in the Midlands said his activists were furious. "We don't like it at all," he said. "The reaction here is very

strongly against Lilley and there is alarm about any detachment from Thatcherite policies. The problem is no one can identify what's happening and that does not make it easy to get across our message to voters."

Michael Heseltine's constituency chairman in Henley,

Michael McInnes, said he was very concerned at Mr Lilley's speech. "When I read it I thought, 'Oh God, not another own goal.'"

Jean Gibbons, acting chairman in Tom King's Bridgewater seat, said it was "not a good moment to be having these internal wrangles".

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# Wallace bridge for L

## Tories in split over stunt

### SNP changes

QUOTE of the day

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# Wallace wary of bridge too far for Lib Dems

BY JASON ALLARDYCE AND MAGNUS LINKLATER

THE Liberal Democrats could sacrifice their commitment to abolishing university tuition fees as the price of forming a coalition with Labour in the Scottish parliament.

In an interview with *The Times*, Jim Wallace, the Scottish Lib Dem leader, refused to guarantee that a Lib-Lab deal would require the £1,000-a-year charges to be scrapped. His refusal is likely to spark a backlash within his party and among students given that a commitment to abolishing the fees is contained in its manifesto for the Scottish elections on May 6.

Until now, it seemed likely that a cross-party alliance would outvote Labour on the charges in the Edinburgh parliament because the Scottish National Party and Scots Tories are also committed to abolishing tuition fees.

But it now seems increasingly likely that a coalition deal could be reached between Labour and the Lib Dems which

would involve Labour promising further investment across Scottish education.

Asked if he would guarantee that a Lib-Lab government would scrap the fees, Mr Wallace said: "You are jumping the gun. I'm telling you that's our policy, that's what we want to get, along with every other policy in the manifesto."

In contrast, Mr Wallace has set out a clear pre-condition for a coalition with the SNP. He still argues that a deal is impossible unless the nationalists abandon their commitment to a referendum on Scottish independence in the first four-year term.

Mr Wallace is diffident about his working title during the election campaign as "the king-maker". Despite the fact that his party may be within a week of wielding the kind of power it has aspired to but failed to achieve for the better part of this century, Mr Wallace refuses to be drawn on what his precise terms are for

serving in a coalition government. He even professes to quote the words of his Labour rival Donald Dewar rather than trust his own. "There's been a lot of speculation about what happens," he reads. "As far as I'm concerned I'm thinking about the 6th of May. The 7th of May will take care of itself."

"There are a number of options currently available. Until we see what the circumstances are, we've not selected one option above another. That would be foolish. Until we are in a position to do that, we will keep pushing our case and listening to the people of Scotland."

It is hardly the most electrifying quotation of the campaign, but Mr Wallace is well pleased with it. He describes it as "elegant". And it allows him to fence round the one question everyone wants an answer to.

But it is clear that he is fully prepared for the great day when, as he hopes, he will sit down with Labour and negoti-



Jim Wallace on the campaign trail in Dundee. On the horse-trading expected after the election, he says: "I'm not to be bought at any price"

ate for power. The one moment at which he became suddenly forthright was when he was asked whether Labour might simply refuse to negotiate, and carry on with a minority government.

"There would be a presumptuousness there," he warns. "A

kind of arrogance that people despise about the Labour Party, who think they can have it all their own way even when the people haven't given them a majority to have it their own way. I don't think that would be the best recipe for stability."

So when will we know what

the Liberal Democrats' conditions will be for joining a coalition Scottish government? Mr Wallace has the answer put: May 8. Not May 7, the day after the elections. "No decisions will be made that day," he says. "The one piece of advice I've had from Paddy Ashdown

is: don't make any decisions immediately after polling day, because you're far too tired. I want to get to my bed as early as possible." And which job will he be angling for in a future Scottish Cabinet? "Ha, you're not going to draw me on that," he says triumphantly.

"I'm not going to trade principles for a ministerial Mondoo." Not even a ministerial Jag? For a moment, a pause, and then a loud guffaw. "Certainly not," he says. "I'm not to be bought at any price."

Magnus Linklater, page 22

## Tories in split over stunt



Scotland's two most senior Tories clashed publicly over a controversial election campaign stunt which has threatened future party funding. The split came after *The Times* revealed that the party was being legal action over its decision to produce 30,000 T-shirts bearing the slogan "FOUK Tuition Fees".

Amabel Goldie, the Scottish party's deputy leader, voiced the deep anger of traditional activists who found the stunt grossly offensive. The party's troubles deepened further last night when a spokeswoman for French Connection, which owns the trademark FCUK, confirmed that the company's lawyers had issued the Conservative Party with a letter demanding legal action. The company is also demanding a personal apology from William Hague.

Mr Goldie, the Scottish leader, who has defended the stunt, said: "I was really shocked about this nonsense and like many others I was never consulted about it. If I had been so I would never have agreed to it."

**SNP changes tactic**  
Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, has put independence firmly back at the centre of his party's campaign, promising to hold a referendum on breaking up the Union as soon as possible after the election. In a change of tactics, which will please nationalists in the Scottish National Party, Mr Salmond suggested for the first time in the campaign that Scots should be asked to vote on independence within the parliament's first year. When the campaign started, independence was placed last on the party's ten-point plan. A series of disastrous poll results have forced the SNP to relaunch its campaign.

### QUOTE of the day

Mike Russell, the SNP's chief executive, denying that the Scottish nationalists had put separatism on a back burner: "Independence is at the centre and the heart of our concerns and always has been."

### today's AGENDA

David McLetchie, Scottish Tory leader, visits the Isle of Arran where he will talk about the SNP's economic policies. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, attends a Catholic schooling conference in Cliffr. Labour's Donald Dewar takes the battalions to Glasgow. Jim Wallace, Lib Dem leader, will talk about tuition fees in Cumbernauld.

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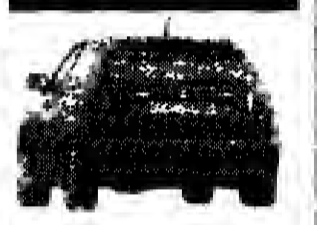
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Volvo 343/345 1.4 to-8/91	£39.95	£29.95	<b>£10</b>
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Renault 5 Campus 1108cc 8/89-10/92	£89.95	£79.95	<b>£10</b>
Ford Escort 5, 1.3 9/90-8/92	£89.95	£84.95	<b>£5</b>
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# Tension rises over Israel poll

Vote hangs in balance, writes Christopher Walker from Jerusalem

THE Palestinians yesterday decided to postpone any decision on declaring an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza until after the Israeli election, adding a new dimension to a cliff-hanging poll that moved into top gear this week with the launch of television campaign broadcasts.

The news came against the backdrop of 48 hours of violence in which eight Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lebanon and another was injured in the West Bank.

Even before the latest violence, the future of Israel's 21-year military presence in southern Lebanon and the deadlocked Middle East peace process with the Palestinians — including their continued demand for an eventual state — had emerged as key issues bitterly dividing the main contenders.

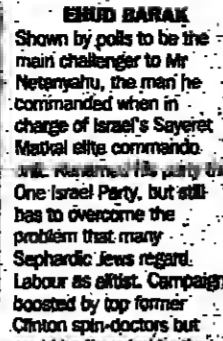
Because of the closeness of the race — the last poll in 1996 was decided by 30,000 votes — and the constraints imposed on rallies by security problems, television advertising is expected to play a key role.

The election takes place on

## RIVALS IN THE MAY 17 ELECTION



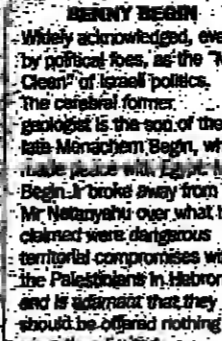
**EHUD BARAK**  
Shown by polls to be the main challenger to Mr Netanyahu, the man he commanded when in charge of Israel's Sayeret Matkal elite commando unit, reformed the party One Israel Party, but still has to overcome the problem that many Sephardic Jews regard Labour as elitist. Campaign boosted by top former Clinton spin-doctors but could be thwarted by the new Centre Party.



**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**  
Narrowly elected as Israel's youngest Prime Minister in 1996, "Bibi" Netanyahu was forced to the polls 18 months earlier than expected after failing to hold his Likud-led coalition together over the deadlocked peace process. Unwashed king of Israel's media-dominated campaigning, he is still a possible winner despite making many enemies while in power and upsetting the White House.



**YITZHAK MORDECHAI**  
Popular former Defence Minister under Mr Netanyahu until sacked on TV for his talks with Centre Party, which he now leads after opinion polls showed him the most popular of the founders with voters. Favors continuation of peace process, but has yet to take off in the polls, against Mr Barak and Mr Netanyahu. Under pressure to stand down in exchange for top post in a future Barak-led government.



**BENNY BEGIN**  
Widely acknowledged, even by political foes, as the "Mr Clean" of Israeli politics. The central former goliath is the son of the late Menachem Begin, who made peace with Egypt. Mr Begin broke away from Mr Netanyahu over what he claimed were dangerous territorial compromises with the Palestinians in Lebanon, and is adamant that they should be offered nothing more than limited autonomy.



**AZMI BISHARA**  
The first Arab ever to run for the premiership. A former head of philosophy at West Bank's Bir Zeit University — a focus of Palestinian nationalism — he is a Christian Arab leading a splinter from the Israeli Communist Party. Favors Israel as a secular, democratic (ie, not defined as Jewish) state, with cultural autonomy for its one million Arabs. Backs a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

May 17 with 33 parties competing for 120 seats in the 15th Knesset, compared with the record set in 1988 of 27 parties struggling for the 55,000 votes needed to secure a single seat. More significant are the five candidates running for the directly elected position of prime minister, which Benjamin Netanyahu has held since 1996. If one of those fails to win 50 per cent in the first ballot, there

will be a presidential-style second round between the two front-runners on June 1.

Predictions of the outcome in a country where the old joke of "two Jews, three opinions" is very much alive and well, have been complicated by the emergence of a new Centre Party, led by Yitzhak Mordechai, Mr Netanyahu's popular former Defence Minister, as a strong contender. Unless

Mr Mordechai stands down before May 17, he will open the way to a second round between Mr Netanyahu and Labour's Ehud Barak.

Mr Netanyahu is likely to win a second round because of a strong turnout among Jewish supporters compared with that of Israeli Arabs, unlikely to stand down in exchange for top post in a future Barak-led government. Neither Ben-

ny Begin, the far-right candidate, nor Azmi Bishara, the first Arab prime ministerial challenger in Israel's 51-year history, are given any chance.

Mr Netanyahu led off the nearly 90 minutes of party political broadcasts on Monday night, many scripted and supervised by highly paid American media experts. Offstage in Mr Netanyahu's corner is Arthur Finkelstein,

the conservative US campaign wizard who is so reclusive about his presence in Israel that he often checks into a Jerusalem hotel under a false name.

Mr Barak — Israel's most decorated soldier — is having his campaign masterminded by a team of liberal Americans including James Carville, the so-called "Ragin' Cajun" from Louisiana, Stanley Greenberg and Bob Shrum, who were all present at the birth of the famous slogan for party workers in President Clinton's first campaign, "It's the economy, stupid".

"The American advisers will market the two leaders to the people of Israel in almost the same way as an advertiser markets a new orthopaedic mattress," said the *Haaretz* columnist Akiva Eldor.

"The difference is that the ratings of the campaign broadcasts really can affect the Israeli citizen's quality of sleep during the next four years."

The outcome is expected to hinge on the whim of floating voters, and the spin-doctors will be focusing on the one million immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

In Monday's opening round Mr Netanyahu's Likud had the wit to include Russian subtitles for the new arrivals. By Tuesday, such is the speed of Israel's "electoral response teams", Labour's platform was repeated word for word in Cyrillic also.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Russo-Chinese frontier pact

Beijing: China and Russia have reached a breakthrough in talks to map out their common border, ending a 300-year-old dispute, a Russian diplomat said here. "The task of marking out the border is complete after seven years of work," he said of the 2,656-mile border between the states.

The head of the Russian negotiating team, Genrikh Kiryev, had exchanged documents in Beijing with his Chinese opposite numbers, the diplomat said. "The documents are ready to be signed. It will be done at the next summit between the heads of state or government this year, either in Moscow or in Beijing." (AFP)

### Home rights for 1.6m

Hoog Kong: Officials say that more than 1.6 million mainland Chinese could have the right to live in Hoog Kong as the result of a court ruling last January (Jill McGivering writes). A government survey suggests that 700,000 people, the children of permanent residents, could apply for residency immediately. Many are adults, and their children, more than 900,000 second-generation migrants, would also win the right of abode.

### Kabila victory claim

Nairobi: The Congolese Army announced that its forces recaptured the eastern town of Bendersa this week after heavy fighting with rebels and Rwandan troops in which 120 Rwandans were killed (Robin Lodge writes). There has been no independent confirmation of the claim, which was made by the armed forces spokesman, Leon Kasonga. If confirmed, it would provide a significant boost to the Government of President Kabila.

### Capitol bacteria scare

Washington: Safety inspectors have found a recurrence of "potentially hazardous" levels of legionnaires' disease bacteria in the power plant that supplies heat and air-conditioning to the Capitol building (Ian Brodie writes). High concentrations were found seven months ago. Inspectors said the system would not send the deadly bacteria through vents to congressional offices, but could pose a hazard to plant workers.

### Supper's ready

Rome: Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, painted on the wall of a convent in Milan in 1498, went on show to the public after restoration work lasting 22 years. Rather than using the classic fresco technique, Leonardo chose a mix of tempera emulsion and oil on a plaster base. The technique, generally reserved for paintings on wood, allowed him to retouch the composition, but trapped damp in the wall. (AFP)

### Death penalty call

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition. Thirty of the commission's members voted in favour and 11 against, including the United States and China. The European Union-sponsored text calls on all states that have the death penalty to reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed. (AFP)

## Grateful Mandela forges closer ties with Russians



Mandela: greeted by a guard of honour

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S renaissance as a world power was further reinforced yesterday by the arrival in Moscow of Nelson Mandela, the South African President.

Mr Mandela, who retires in June and is in Russia to discuss strengthening bilateral political and economic ties, expressed his gratitude to Russia for its support in fighting apartheid.

"We received enormous assistance from the Soviet Union, the assistance we could not get from the West," he said. "Russia should have been the very first country

that I visited and I have come to pay that debt now."

The two countries signed agreements on the development of natural resources, such as gold and diamonds, and a declaration of co-operation in nuclear energy, specifically the development of helium modular nuclear reactors, thought to be the safest.

Russian politicians now railing against Nato's actions in Serbia are painfully aware of their economic dependence on the West. The International Monetary Fund has agreed to resume loans to Russia, beginning with about \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) in an accord to be finalised in Washington this week.

## Birthday bash for Saddam

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq celebrated his 62nd birthday yesterday by throwing a huge party across his impoverished country to demonstrate the resilience of his regime in the face of economic sanctions and a war of attrition by US and British military aircraft (Michael Theodorou writes). State radio crooned *Happy Birthday* in English, while singers and poets led parades of admiration of the man who has led his country into two disastrous wars in 20 years.

## Pol Pot torture chief tells of Briton's death

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

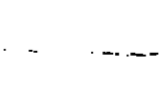
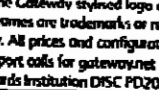
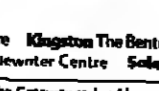
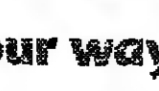
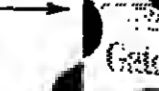
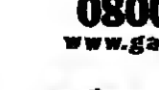
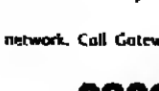
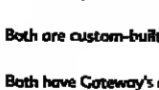
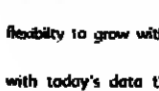
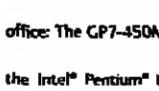
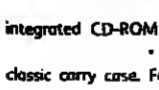
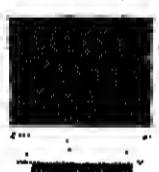
COMRADE Deuch, the commandant of Pol Pot's "S-21", the extermination and torture prison in Phnom Penh during the years of the "killing fields", has been found helping refugee charities in western Cambodia and says that as a born-again Christian he wants to atone for his sins.

Deuch, real name, Kiang Khok Lev, was the most wanted member of the Khmer Rouge regime after its leader Pol Pot, who died last year. In an interview with a British photo-journalist, Nic Dunlop, he said he remembered John Dewhurst, a Briton captured

by the Khmer Rouge with a New Zealand friend, Kerry Hamill, and a Canadian, Stuart Glass. The three were executed at S-21. "Yes, the Englishman was very polite," he said. "All foreigners were killed and their bodies burnt so no bones were left."

In his confession after torture, Dewhurst wrote that he was a CIA agent, recruited at the age of 12, and that his father was also a CIA agent whose cover was as the headmaster of a Newcastle secondary school. Dewhurst also said he attended a CIA school in Loughborough with a sign on the gate saying "Loughborough Town Council Highways Department".

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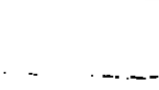
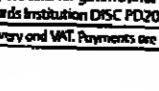
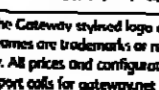
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## THE SUNDAY TIMES

# DORINDA AT THE OSCARS

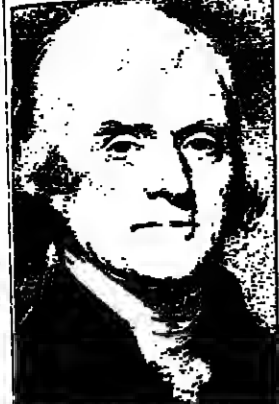
Dorinda McCann, our ex-chambermaid turned roving reporter, does the Oscars, where she turned in a star performance and gave an emotional speech afterwards. The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

لقد كان من الأصل

so-Chinese  
tier pact  
rights for 1.6m  
victory claim  
bacteria scare  
ready  
penalty call



Thomas Jefferson: had at least one child with slave

## Race row threatens Jefferson reunion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE annual family gathering of Thomas Jefferson's descendants will include blacks as well as whites for the first time next month, but a new dispute is brewing over whether the black claimants should be formally grafted on to the Jefferson family tree. The debate over whether Jefferson had black offspring erupted after a 200-year-old patent suit, which came to a trial last November when a judge ruled that one of the children belonging to Jefferson's slave, Hemmings, was probably fathered by America's third President. The Monticello Association, a group of 700 officially acknowledged Jefferson descendants, holds a gathering in May at his Monticello estate in Virginia, and this year the organisation has invited more than 20 black people descended from the President's slave. The invitation was made after Lucian Truscott IV, a fifth-generation white Jefferson descendant, threatened to sue the entire Hemmings family for the right to gate the party on May 15. Truscott said that, unless the black group is formally recognised, he will ask all white claimants to take a test to prove their own ancestry. "It's racist on its face," he said. "If black people their oral history is not enough, despite a while automatically being the oral history of the likes like me," he said.

# Beijing spy 'stole all US nuclear secrets'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

VIRTUALLY every nuclear weapon in the United States was compromised when a scientist suspected of spying for China transferred huge amounts of data from a secret computer system to an unclassified network, according to a report published yesterday. The transfers, discovered only last month, add a vast new dimension to the investigation of nuclear spying during which, according to the chairman of a congressional committee, the Chinese stole "the crown jewels" of America's nuclear arsenal and continue to do so. China denies the charges. Yesterday's report, in *The New York Times*, contained allegations that were said to have outraged politicians and intelligence officials. President Clinton ordered Bill Richardson, his Energy Secretary, who oversees nuclear weapons laboratories, to "get to the bottom of it". Officials said the transfers were made to a widely accessible computer network by Wen Ho Lee, 59, who was born in Taiwan and has worked since 1978 at the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory in New Mexico. The report said that millions of lines of computer code, giving details of how America's nuclear warheads worked, were downloaded four to five years ago from a computer system that is open only to scientists with top-level security clearance at Los Alamos. There was said to be evidence that the files were accessed by someone improperly using a password after they were placed in the unclassified network. American officials

feared that the files were then passed to Beijing, although an Energy Department official said this remained uncertain. Experts said the data would be useful to any nuclear power trying to copy US designs. The information contained the "legacy" codes used to design nuclear weapons, analyse nuclear test results and evaluate the safety of warheads. In addition, Mr Lee allegedly transferred the "input" data for specific warheads. Ray Kidder, a nuclear weapons physicist at another laboratory, said that, taken together, the legacy code and the input data were the equivalent of a scientific blueprint that could be "reverse-engineered" to give a complete plan of the explosive part of the weapon. Another scientist said that the information was not by itself sufficient to produce an exact copy of an American weapon, but it could be of considerable value to a country such as China, which has signed the nuclear test ban treaty and relies on computer simulations to upgrade its nuclear arsenal. The FBI was already investigating whether Mr Lee passed information to Beijing in the 1980s, enabling China to design a replica of America's most advanced nuclear warhead, the W-88 used in Trident submarines. He was sacked from Los Alamos seven weeks ago, but denies wrongdoing. In a potentially embarrassing twist to the case, his wife, Sylvia, a former secretary at Los Alamos, was identified this week as having been an FBI informant. She helped agents to monitor Chinese scientists visiting the laboratory.



Duke in Baton Rouge, where he entered the race for Congress

## Political dinosaur revisits Southern swamp

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN AMITE, LOUISIANA

A PREHISTORIC political creature has re-emerged from Louisiana's swamps in a last effort to win power. David Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, perennial candidate and torch-bearer for America's white supremacists, is running for a House of Representatives seat. Some 50 people — mostly men, all white — have assembled in a humid hut on the edge of the bayou to hear an angry sermon that might have wafted back from the Deep South of four decades ago. "This country was founded by white Christians. Our heritage is at stake. We're being outvoted and outnumbered in our own communities... people have been raped, murdered, assaulted, robbed. Blacks commit ten times more violent crimes than whites, 1,000 per cent more rapes," Mr Duke rants, as his audience nods and grumbles. Outside, fireflies skitter among rows of rusty pickups with "Duke for Congress" bumper stickers; decrepit



Duke refers to his Ku Klux Klan years variously as a mistake or a thrill

vehicles carrying decrepit, second-hand thoughts. Mr Duke, 48, is a hangover from the past with no hope of winning, according to opponents. Yet his candidacy has sent a nasty shiver through the Republican Party, already embarrassed at having to fill a seat vacated by Robert Livingston, the House Speaker-designate who resigned during the Lewinsky scandal over sexual indiscretions. Louisiana's election rules, a broad field of candidates, and Mr Duke's lingering appeal, mean that he cannot be ignored. Seven Republicans, of whom he is one, are competing for the seat along with two Democrats. If, as expected, one wins an outright majority in Saturday's primary vote, then the two frontrunners will go through to a runoff on May 29; if the Republican vote is sufficiently fragmented, there is an outside chance that Mr Duke may slip through. That prospect, however distant, is sufficiently scary to have persuaded the Republican Congressional Committee in Washington to commission a private survey to see if it should step in and endorse another candi-

date. Polls show Mr Duke running behind three other Republicans including a wealthy ophthalmologist from New Orleans with the alarming name, given recent US history, of Monica Monica. The front-runner is David Treen, a party veteran and former Governor of Louisiana. Mr Duke's hopes are pinned firmly on the hardly flattering assumption that those who support him will be too ashamed to admit it to pollsters. In 1991 he drew 55 per cent of the white vote when running for governor, after grabbing nearly 60 per cent of white votes in a Senate poll the year before. A huge turnout of black voters scuppered both attempts and his star has faded since, but Dukedom remains a dark and overgrown corner of Louisiana, fed on a rich compost of paranoia and prejudice. In an autobiography, *My Awakening*, published earlier this year, Mr Duke called for an Aryan revolution and offered the familiar mixture of Holocaust denial and plans for re-



Supporters are assumed to be too ashamed to confess to pollsters

newed racial segregation. But it is his simpler philosophy, in which every complaint is hung on the error of racial mixture, that has his Amite listeners punching the fisted air. The Colorado massacre: "Diversity is what caused this shooting." Kosovo: "What about the invasion of Mexico? Bring the troops home to protect our American borders." (Applause) The media: "They try to make you feel guilty for your white European heritage." The future: "Whites will be a minority..." (Yells). If the podium Mr Duke cuts a different, more plausible figure. His talk of tax cuts, the rights of gun ownership and the decline of Christian morality could come from any mainstream conservative, a fact that brings mainstream conservatives out in a cold sweat. "Duke is trying to hijack the legitimate conservative agenda," the right-wing *Washington Times* said this month. The former Klan chief, the object of a deportation order from Britain in 1978 when he came to address racist rallies and organise resistance to non-white immigration, is equally careful to finesse his past, sometimes describing his sheet-wearing days as a "mistake", but more often as a "thrill" of which he is not ashamed. After 25 years of active politics, nine attempts for office and only one success a decade ago when he briefly held a seat in the state legislature, Mr Duke says that this election will be his last. "We can win," he tells the audience. It fits this conspiratorial fantasy world to imagine that outside the hut exists a vast but silent body of Duke supporters who share the hate but will hide their views until polling day. "We always fly below the radar," says Ray Anderson, Duke's campaign manager. Alongside the highway running back to New Orleans, rotting trunks of broken trees loom out of a primeval mud. Extinction may be on hand, but here dinosaurs still roam.

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## BALKANS WAR: CIVILIAN DEATHS

## Nato regrets bombing error

Blair says atrocities by Milosevic far outweigh few Serb casualties, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

NATO offered its regrets yesterday after a laser-guided bomb lost its target "lock" and fell to the ground, killing up to 20 civilians and demolishing 50 homes 300 metres from the intended hit, a Yugoslav army barracks.

However, as the latest example of "collateral damage" gave Belgrade the opportunity to accuse Nato of a bombing outrage, Tony Blair went on the offensive, denouncing President Milosevic for his deliberate targeting of civilians. The Ministry of Defence joined in the damage-limitation exercise by distributing a map setting out the atrocities committed by the Serbs against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

The Prime Minister expressed regret over the deaths in the southern Serbian town of Surdulica, but he told the House of Commons that Nato was taking "every single precaution we possibly and reasonably can" to avoid civilian deaths. It would be "the ultimate moral outrage" if Britain and the other members of Nato stood aside while Serb forces committed "appalling atrocities" and raped women "so badly they will never be able to have children".

Mr Blair told MPs: "We simply cannot know yet how many people Milosevic has butchered inside Kosovo, but I warn the House that it is going to be a very considerable number." The bomb that went astray should have hit the military barracks, which the Serbs claimed had been empty of troops for weeks, with laser-guided precision. Other Nato bombs on the same raid hit the target.

Defence sources said that the pilot of the Nato bomber, believed to have been an American F15E, had only seconds to decide whether to drop the bomb.

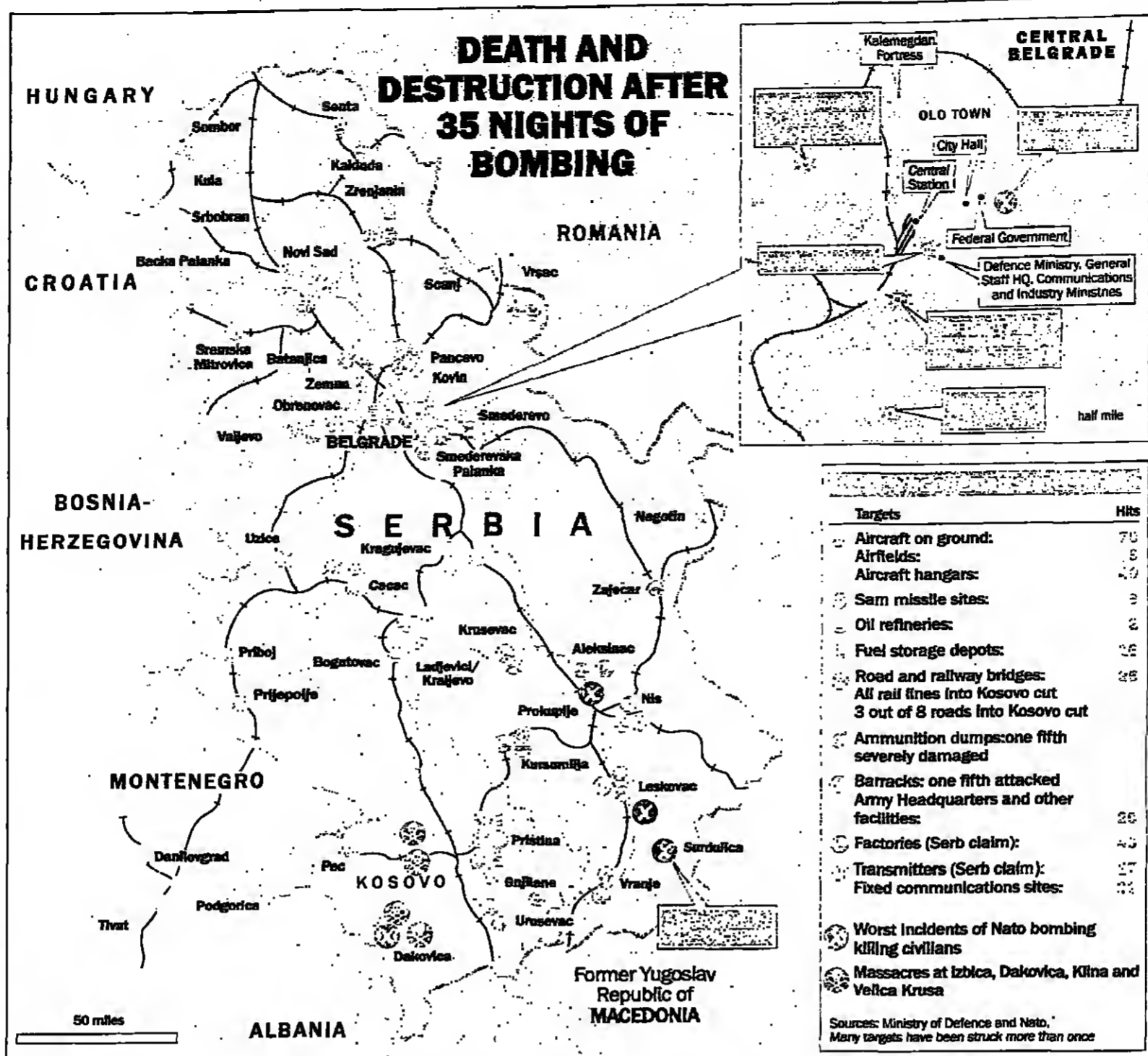
Although he needed to have a clear sight of the barracks be-

fore releasing the bomb down the laser beam reflected off the target, they said it was possible that dense smoke from the other weapons that had been dropped had obscured the target at the last moment, cutting off the laser link.

The only other explanation, the sources said, was that the guidance seeker head on the bomb was faulty. The bomb, believed to have been a 2,000lb deep-penetration weapon, hit a residential area. Witnesses said the Nato raid was between 12.10pm and 12.30pm on Tuesday.

Rescue workers said it was difficult to count the dead because most had been "blown to bits". At the town's hospital, medical staff were trying to reconstruct the bodies. Miroslav Stojiljkovic, Mayor of the town of 15,000 people, estimated that 600 houses had suffered some damage. Bulldozers were removing huge mounds of concrete rubble to help the search for survivors. Many of the victims in the town, which is about 200 miles south of Belgrade, were in their cars waiting for the Nato raids to finish. Other laser-guided bombs have also gone astray during the first five weeks of Operation Allied Force, although comparatively few of the thousands of bombs dropped have missed their target completely. In one of the earliest raids, a bomb dropped by an RAF Harrier GR7 lost its way but fell on open ground.

The Prime Minister said that, despite the civilian deaths, he remained as determined as ever to continue the bombing campaign. The 20 deaths bring to nearly 100 the number of civilians officially acknowledged by Nato to have been killed. Between 65 and 75 Albanian refugees were killed when a convoy near Dakovica was hit, ten civilians died on a train cross-



ing a bridge near Leskovac, and 12 died after another bomb went astray at Aleksinac. The civilian death toll claimed by the Serbs, and supported by the Russians, is higher, but there is no way of validating their figures. They claim that more than 500 civilians have been killed since the bombing began, including ten in a residential area of Pristina, the Kosovo capital. The Serbs also claimed that 55 civilians were killed on the railway bridge near Leskovac, after initially reporting only ten. There are increasing reports of injuries caused by the dropping of cluster bombs. Both the US Air Force and the RAF have been striking "soft targets", such as concentrations of troops and vehicles, with

cluster munitions. There are reports of unexploded cluster bombs lying around in Kosovo. In a report from Pristina, in the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday, Rade Grbic, a surgeon at the town's main hospital, said that children had been playing with cluster bombs and had suffered appalling injuries. He was quoted as saying: "I

have been an orthopaedist for 15 years, working in a crisis region where we often have injuries, but neither I nor my colleagues have ever seen such horrific wounds as those caused by cluster bombs. The limbs are so crushed that the only option is amputation."

The report said that 300 to 400 people, about half of the civilian, had been treated in Pristina's hospital for cluster bomb injuries since the Nato air campaign began on March 24. However, the Yugoslav Air Force has also been dropping Russian-made cluster bombs from low-flying aircraft. It is likely that some unexploded munitions are Yugoslav.

Letters: page 23  
Books: page 40

## Sunny skies herald heavier attacks

By Michael Evans

PRESIDENT Milosevic was given a clear warning yesterday that improving weather would enable Nato to launch an overwhelming number of airstrikes.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said that summer weather would make a huge difference to Nato's air campaign. "And summer is coming," he said.

The weather forecasters had been wrong, he said. Earlier this week they predicted clear skies over Yugoslavia, yet it had been Bulgaria that enjoyed good weather. He said, however, that Yugoslavia "is a country in the South of Europe which has good summers".

The importance of the weather became apparent yesterday when clearer skies brought an intensification of raids. Southern districts of Belgrade were hit in several hours of bombing overnight. The state-run Tanjug news agency described it as a "massive onslaught".

Nato bombers also hit military targets in Montenegro, including an army communications relay station on Mount Crni Vrh and a Yugoslav airbase near Podgorica, the capital.

As the bombers flew over the Montenegrin port of Bar, which is to be the subject of a Nato oil embargo blockade, Yugoslav navy warships opened fire.

Other targets included two bridges, two fuel dumps, an army training centre, an army barracks in Belgrade and an army command post in Kosovo.

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## Congress disputes Clinton's right to wage war on Serbs

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

ARGUMENTS broke out on Capitol Hill yesterday over the costs of military action and President Clinton's authority to wage war and deploy ground troops, as the House of Representatives prepared to cast its first votes on the crisis since the air campaign began. Two proposals — one demanding that the US declare war on Yugoslavia, the other that it pull out — were expected to fail, but a third, that would require Mr Clinton to obtain congressional approval before the deployment of ground forces, was gaining momentum with the backing of Republican leaders.

"This will hamstring our troops in the field," Congressman Martin Frost said as fellow Democrats issued a warning that such a move could even prevent the deployment of Apache helicopters against Serb units in Kosovo.

The White House found itself in the unexpected position of arguing that Congress was preparing to spend too much after Republicans said they were ready to double an emergency cost package but backed on a number of vote-winning military expenses not directly related to the Kosovo conflict. Mr Clinton told legislators

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Woman dies in protest explosion

Athens: The Revolutionary Nuclei group said it had carried out a bomb attack, in which a woman was killed, because of "the Nato murder of civilians" in Yugoslavia (John Carr writes). The explosion at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday night, hours before Sir Leo Brittan, the European Commissioner, was to open an economic conference there, comes amid hostility to Britain over its role in the action against Belgrade. Salonika, railworkers blocked a train taking British military vehicles to Macedonia.

### Refugees flee to Italy

Gioia del Colle: More than 4,000 illegal immigrants fleeing the Kosovo conflict have landed on southern Italian shores in the past five days and the authorities reception centres for the new exodus of refugees to the Apulian region are close to collapse (John Phillips writes). On Tuesday alone, 1,400 people, most of them women and children, were dropped on the Salentine coast from speedboats and other small craft piloted by Albanian and Italian smugglers.

### Kuwaitis raise £8.3m

Kuwait City: A live Kuwaiti television has raised £8.3 million for Kosovo refugees, Yussef al-Samir, the Information Minister, said. Several celebrities appeared on the television, dubbed "the day of solidarity with the people of Kosovo", to talk about the plight of Muslim Albanians in Kosovo. Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah has donated \$1 million (£657,000) on behalf of the al-Sabah family, and four planes loaded with urgent relief supplies were dispatched to Albania. (AFP)

### Turkish troops parade

Ankara: A Turkish soldier mans a gun on a tank during a parade at Mamak Garrison on the outskirts of the capital yesterday by a unit that has been ready to take part in a possible Nato peacekeeping mission Kosovo. Some 1,000 soldiers supported by armoured personnel carriers and tanks are on standby, the military Turkey has 11 F16s participating in the campaign against Yugoslavia. (AP)

### Fuel smugglers thrive

Sofia: Bulgarian motorists are enjoying a lucrative trade in smuggling petrol to Serbia as Nato considers an oil embargo on Yugoslavia. Customs officials at the Brezovo crossing said about 25 tonnes of petrol a day is crossing the border in car tanks, cooed cans and soft-drink bottles. Serbs pay \$1 (62p) per litre for the fuel, which costs about 44 cents (27p) in Bulgaria. (AP)

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STUDIO ENTHUSIAST SYSTEM

BALKANS WAR: VICTIMS OF MILOSEVIC

# Time runs out for voice of Serb dissent

**Tom Walker on the sacking of Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister**

**VUK DRASKOVIC**, the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, was sacked yesterday, accused of destroying the reputation of his Government.

Mr Draskovic's removal is a setback for Nato, which had hoped he was the cornerstone of a new faction in Belgrade that looked favourably upon some form of foreign intervention force in Kosovo.

The Yugoslav Information Ministry said that Mr Draskovic's views had been "in contradiction with the federal Government". It said that Momir Bulatovic, the federal Prime Minister and one of President Milosevic's most loyal henchmen, had decided that Mr Draskovic could no longer continue his duties. Sources said that, apart from Mr Milosevic's socialists, the far-right radical party of Vojislav Seselj and the communists of Mr Milosevic's wife, Mira Markovic, were behind the dismissal.

In a hastily convened press conference, Mr Draskovic said that three Cabinet members of his Serbian Renewal Movement had resigned in the wake of his dismissal.

Aides to the bearded novelist said that the news of his sacking had reached his party

headquarters only through the official news agency, Tanjug. "That's the way it is," said one, admitting that she feared for Mr Draskovic's safety.

The regime's swift response leaves Mr Draskovic where most observers felt he was most naturally placed — in opposition. In his recent outburst he told Serbs that they had no chance of fighting off Nato, and had to face the reality of a foreign force, preferably under the UN flag, in Kosovo.

He also blamed the state media for misleading the nation, although he tempered this with a heavy dose of anti-Nato rhetoric. Evidently it was not enough, and Mr Draskovic had been riding for a fall.

What may have irked Mr Milosevic more than the suggestion that international troops could come into Kosovo

was Mr Draskovic's statement that war crimes could have been committed in the province, and that a special commission should be set up to investigate.

Putting a brave face on the Draskovic dismissal, a spokesman for Nato said that it demonstrated there was a split in Belgrade. "It is the price you pay in Belgrade for telling the truth. This regime does not tolerate dissidence," he said.

Mr Draskovic courted trouble earlier in the airstrikes campaign, when he lambasted the killing of the newspaper editor Slavko Curuvija as a cowardly act. "Those who ordered and committed the murder have taken arms against Serbia more destructive than all the bombs of Nato. Let Slavko be the first and last victim of those who want to initiate a mad circle of fratricidal murder," Mr Draskovic said.

He accused *Politika*, the pro-Milosevic newspaper, of inciting civil war and the liquidation of opponents. Mr Draskovic was first arrested in 1985 and jailed in 1991. Two years later he was savagely beaten and went on a hunger strike. He was not invited to the Rambouillet peace talks.



Richard Gere, the Hollywood actor, is mobbed by Kosovo Albanians yesterday as he tours the refugee camp at Bratze in Macedonia. During an unannounced visit, he was reminded by an 11-year-old child who had fled Serb atrocities that there are some things fame, money and good intentions cannot buy (Stephen Far-

## 'I want to see my Mummy'

rell writes). The star of *Pretty Woman* and champion of Tibetan rights climbed out of his Oxfam Land Rover and asked Viora Marcevi, from Pristina: "Is there anything that you can ask me for that you need?" "I

would like to see my Mummy again," replied the child without hesitation. Viora, whose mother, Meylinda, is believed to be trapped in Kosovo after sending the child ahead to the border with her grandmother, later said she did not know who she was talking to. He seemed a man. As what he hoped to see, the child said he planned to meet United Nations human officials. "How I can just see refugees that people count them around the world."

# Refugees endure hours of misery as camps struggle to cope with exodus

**Stephen Farrell sees a crisis unfolding as 8,000 turn up at Blace in two days**

MISERY has returned to the infamous Blace camp on the Kosovo border, where 65,000 ethnic Albanians were housed in squalid and insanitary conditions at the outset of the refugee crisis a month ago.

As more than 8,000 refugees poured into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in two days, the largest number for weeks, hundreds of Kosovar refugees were forced to sleep overnight in the open air because there were not

enough tents for them in the new transit camp being constructed on the bulldozed site of the old Blace. Aid officials admit that between 400 and 500 refugees, including young children and elderly men and women, were left to sleep on plastic sheets and blankets.

They cannot be moved to the larger Bratze, Stenkovec and other camps nearby because those too are "bursting at the seams". Others slept under hastily erected blue plastic sheeting draped from the side of tents, which would be totally inadequate if it rained, which hap-

pens nearly every day. United Nations refugee workers gave a warning that tension was rising in many of the camps, where people are crammed in together.

"The security is getting worse every day because of the influx of refugees, the tents are squashed together and the sanitation is on the point of breakdown," said one UN refugee official.

On Monday 4,300 people arrived at the Blace crossing, north of the

capital, Skopje, with many held there until 4am before space was found for them. Barely had this group been processed than another 3,000 to 4,000 arrived on one eight-wagon train from Kosovo Polje and up to 20 buses. Two more buses and another 1,000 people arrived at two other crossings.

Aid workers planned to move 1,500 of the new arrivals in Bratze, the largest of the camps into new tents installed at Stenkovec. But

they said Macedonia could not cope unless more people were evacuated to other countries.

After queuing from 10am to 3am at the border before being admitted to the Blace camp, Sanie Krosa, 29, and her daughters Anita, two, and Donika, eight months, slept under open skies with no bread or milk. "I don't mind sleeping outside myself, but I am worried for my children," said Mrs Krosa, who left her home in Ferizaj a

month and has the inter-verified moving village to order. "I am just I have and I just want to survive around of Kosovo."

Mr of Mercy C International which manage Blace said: "Until we more camp can take more care are at overcapacity. It is a situation, an enemy."

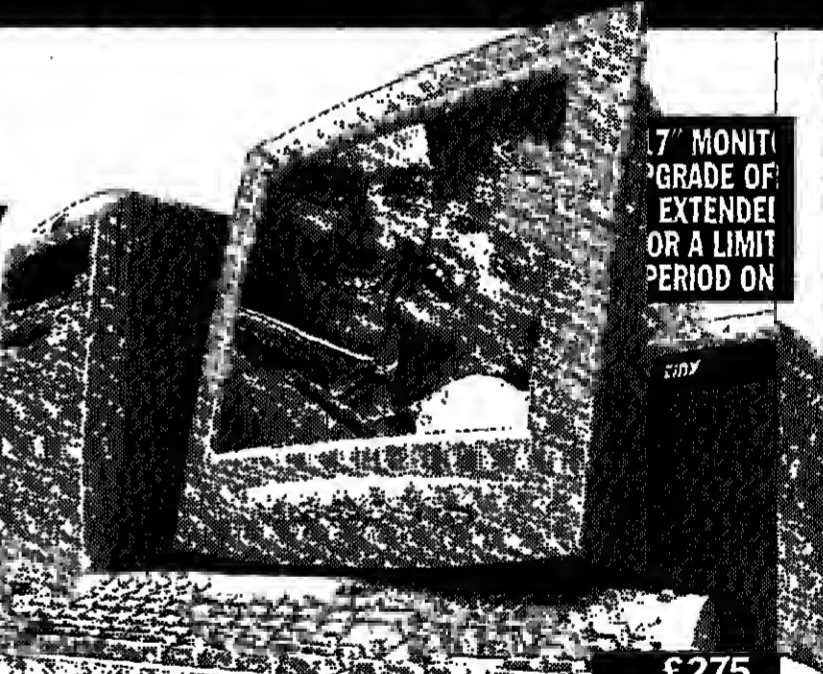
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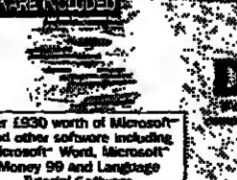


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## GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

## Stop talking, Margaret



Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington: once, when she was explaining to President Reagan the stance that America should take on an issue, Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, slipped her a note saying: "Margaret, you're talking too much"

In the fourth extract from his memoirs, George Walden describes how Parliament, the Tories and the country all realised that it was time for Margaret Thatcher to step down

My first impression of Margaret Thatcher was positive: there was absolutely no side to this woman. She treated officials like fully fledged human beings who (at that stage of her premiership) were allowed their say. Foreign Office flannel, you learnt quickly, was unwelcome. As you talked the electric blue eyes bored into you as if probing for insincerities or fuzzy thinking. I liked the way she preferred plain speaking, even when she simplified things outrageously, and admired her "can-do" style. If you made your point with conviction and could prove you were right, she would take the argument while avoiding any appearance of doing so. Watching her in action it struck me that she was composed of two vital elements: strong passions and a sharp intelligence. The trick was to bring the two together.

Sometimes she would say to me, in tones of reproach: "George, you look tired!" I longed to reply: "That's because I am." Later I noticed how often she said the same to others. Sometimes her consideration extended even to her ministers. In the middle of the talks on the future of Rhodesia, Lord Carrington (then Foreign Secretary) went to secure her agreement to a crucial point. It was a Saturday afternoon, and we had flown in that morning from the ends of the earth.

She listened while Carrington made his case, and we steered ourselves for the usual battle. When he had finished all she said was: "You both look exhausted. Have you had lunch?" We hadn't. "Come upstairs and have a bite. The servants have gone but I'll make you scrambled eggs." Keener to secure her agreement than to savour her eggs, Carrington declined. The solicitude then evaporated while the point was thrashed out mercilessly, and finally agreed. Carrington took me off to a late lunch at White's by way of celebration.

As a minister I was to see that there was another psychology at work in all this talk of other people's tiredness. What she was saying was that you were a man, she was a woman, you were a junior, she was Prime Minister, and yet, unlike you, she was never tired. Though she rarely looked it, with her blue clothes and pink glowing skin, like a Barbara Cartland confection, this of course was untrue. She was often worn out. You could tell when she needed sleep be-

cause, like humbler mortals in a similar state, she talked too much. One person who was allowed to point out this self-evident truth was Denis Thatcher. A model political consort, though not lacking views of his own (they were uncannily close to John Wells's "Dear Bill" letters), he never intervened in policy discussions, reserving his authority for strategic moments. In the middle of an endless discussion over whisky sodas at 1 or 2am in Washington, Tokyo or Bonn, when Carrington and I were aching for sleep, Denis would suddenly announce: "Bed, Margaret!" like a publican calling time. And to bed she would go.

In international meetings the compulsive talking could be an embarrassment. During a meeting with President Reagan, who was neither as articulate nor as well briefed as herself, Thatcher was explaining at length the line America should be taking, while Reagan sat listening, his jar of gum-gums on the table, smiling his screen smile. All at once Thatcher shut up. Surprised at the sudden silence, I raised an eyebrow at Carrington, who passed me a note he had slipped in front of her. It read: "Margaret, you're talking too much."

It is hard to imagine any minister but him saying it, or Thatcher reacting as she did. When Carrington and Willie Whitelaw left the Cabinet and she became more confident, not to say autocratic, none would have dared.

My experience as a diplomat, then an MP, led me to form my own conclusions about our foreign policy under Thatcher. The common view that she despised the Foreign Office and persistently disregarded its advice was largely myth — one later to be encouraged and exploited by Thatcher herself. While ensuring that she was portrayed as being at permanent loggerheads with her diplomats, in reality she went quietly along with almost every recommendation on every big decision on foreign policy that arose.

It was Thatcher who said you never negotiated with ter-



Margaret Thatcher with Denis and her daughter Carol

rorists, and it was she who spoke warmly of the services to peace and reconciliation of Robert Mugabe, the Marxist and ex-terrorist leader, after he had become the first Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. In Hong Kong it was Thatcher who opened up the question of the post-1997 future of the colony with the Chinese Government, even though she had brandished the 1841 treaties during a visit to Tokyo to prove that Victoria Island belonged to us in perpetuity. And it was she who signed the agreement with China giving Hong Kong back to them three years later.

In the Middle East it was she who agreed to the European Community's policy of opening a dialogue with the PLO. More talking to terrorists. It was she who agreed to a lease-back arrangement over the Falklands with Argentina, whose rejection by Parliament was to lead to war. Sedulously disseminated rumours that she had been against the proposal all along made no difference. The fact is she endorsed it, when she could have stopped it in its tracks by saying "No, no, no!"

Then there was Thatcher's stance on communism. In the Cold War she was not a good American ally, but a restraint. The Iron Lady spent much time prevailing on President Reagan to tone down his Star Wars plans, while giving the impression that she stood shoulder to shoulder with him on every East-West issue. And when Reagan struck out on his own, stumbling towards a ban on all nuclear weapons in his meeting with Gorbachev at Reykjavik, which in the unlikely event of an agreement would have left East and West disarmed and the world free for Saddam Hussein and his ilk, she was horrified.

As for Europe, it was she who signed the Single European Act and took Britain into the ERM on the advice of her Chancellor and Foreign Secretary, forbearing once again to say "No, no, no!" If the Cabinet was weighted against her, and if Britain's sovereignty and in-

dependence were at stake, as she later claimed, why did she not resign? There can be little doubt that, had she been in office, she would have signed the Maastricht agreement, too, albeit under protest, and with the same opt-outs Major was to achieve. The one occasion on which she did not follow the diplomatic advice of the day — to accept the unification of Germany with as good a grace as we could as a *fait accompli* — she was seen as dangerously out of touch with reality, a perception that had as much to do with her fall from power as the poll tax.

Idolaters of Thatcher as the only reliable guardian of Britain's interests face a conundrum. How was she brought, time and again, to do her diplomats' bidding? Either she was not perspicacious enough to see when she was being led by the nose by her officials (assuming she was) and was insufficiently strong-willed to resist, or she fell in with the "Foreign Office line" (say her Foreign Secretary's advice) because, as she was fond of saying in other contexts, there was no alternative.

As the 1987 election neared, my equivocal feelings about my future in politics grew. I did not see myself as an outstanding minister, not least because of a fatal inclination to see too many sides of a question. My real interests were cultural, and largely outside the reach of politicians. Uncertain which way to jump, I left things to the last moment. Just before the end of the campaign

take my re-election for granted. Thatcher (I was told) did not understand the reasons for my resignation: had I tried to explain them to her, she would have understood even less.

A No 10 lunch confirmed my impression that things were on the slide. There were six of us, including the Foreign Secretary, Geoffrey Howe, and the historian Hugh Thomas. Her strained relations with Howe were common knowledge, but on this occasion her contemptuous attitude towards him astonished me. I do not know what shocked me most: the way she treated him or his docile reaction. We were talking of Europe and different economic models. The slightest deviation from the Thatcher line and Geoffrey was slapped down. He lowered his head, got on with his lunch, then came doggedly back, to be slapped down again. These were not abusive arguments, but personal insults. When he hazarded a view about the workings of industry he was told that if he

knew so much about it, why didn't he go to work there?

To speak to your Foreign Secretary in the way she did in private would have been bad enough. To do so in front of myself and an outsider was extraordinary. She had reached the stage when no one dared tell her that she couldn't treat people like that. I wondered that Howe did not excuse himself and leave the room. In the event, his revenge was more dramatic. Watching him knife her in the back in his resignation speech in the Commons not long afterwards was like seeing a battered wife finally turn on a violent husband.

Somehow the fact that she had "lost it" communicated itself to the party at large. The way she went — Heseltine's challenge and the subsequent vote — was of limited importance. Her judgment was becoming erratic, and sooner rather than later she would have had to go. That she was toppled by a parliamentary cabal against the general senti-

ment of the party is a fantasy of the Right. MPs voted against her not just because she was endangering their chances of re-election, they threw her out because the constituency parties were losing faith in her, too. When I consulted my constituency party officers on how to vote in the leadership election in a public show of hands a majority came out in her favour. Later I talked to those who had supported her; in private three quarters said it was time for her to go. My guess is that in Parliament, the party and the country the view was the same.

Extracted from *Lucky George* by George Walden, published by Penguin on May 6, £17.99; available to readers for £15, including p&p, from The Times Bookshop, 0950 134459

## TOMORROW

"If the Tories' laughter in the chamber annoyed John Prescott, he should have heard them in the tea room"

Her contempt towards Howe was astonishing

## Time for the Iron Lady to go

Now she was out of office Denis seemed in higher spirits than ever, perpetually like a man who had just put down his first drink of the day. But his wife was a sad sight. From a distance she looked fine but close up, at cocktails or dinner, her mouth was pinched in a sort of purposeless determination, and her eyes had a faraway look, like an actress endlessly on the point of delivering her curtain speech.

Watching her made me think how easy it is for former Prime Ministers of the male sex to age gracefully, all of a piece, looking more and more distinguished with their balding pates, worldly-wise features and statesmanlike embonpoint. Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well and was reaching the age where her over-immaculate hair set off the ravages of her face. The result was an eerie dissonance between age and vitality. She was also drinking too much. In the old days she would put down a whisky soda or two late in the evening, after her unimpeachable day; now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There



Goodbye to all that: Thatcher's last day at No 10 in 1991

was no arguing with her any more: in fact it was impossible to talk to her. The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronouncement that sounded as if it had been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she didn't know she was doing it. One evening, at a buffet dinner with an East European Prime Minister when she was on a drink-fuelled high,

I saw her was after I had announced that I was giving up my seat. She greeted me by gripping my hand, fixing me with her ancient mariner's eye, and saying with more regret than malice: "George, you've lost your soul." It was an uncomfortable moment. She had, after all, given me a chance in office. Somehow the chilled blue eyes made you feel like a lover who had unjustly abandoned her, and that she was right to chide you.

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## NO PRESENT ALTERNATIVE

But Hague must take personal command of his policy review

In the immediate aftermath of Peter Lilley's address last week William Hague proclaimed proudly that his deputy had "slayed the myth" that Conservatives were bent on the outright privatisation of key public services. There has been slaughter aplenty in Conservative circles over the past few days. Mr Hague's interpretation of events continues to appear extremely optimistic. The Tory leader did, however, take the opportunity of a speech last night to offer the sort of language on public-private partnerships that had been adopted by Mr Lilley, might have rendered his lecture mercifully uncontroversial. This may help to staunch his party's wounds.

There are certain other myths surrounding this sorry saga that still need exploding. The first is the myth that the Tories are entering the final days of Mr Hague's tenure. There is a hothouse atmosphere in Westminster at present. It will be reinforced by the latest MORI poll for *The Times* which shows that Tory support has slumped again and that, by a margin even greater than that in the electorate as a whole, their remaining voters are dissatisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

But a palace coup cannot take place without a credible alternative monarch. Kenneth Clarke remains an effective performer whose views on the single currency make it impossible for him to serve as leader. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, may have been a contender six months ago but the refusal of his much-heralded recession to appear has damaged his standing. He has also hurt himself by backing Mr Lilley within the Shadow Cabinet. Michael Portillo is not an MP and any attempt to create a by-election to boost his candidature, history suggests, is doomed to failure. There is no realistic alternative to Mr Hague as leader.

A slightly different dilemma exists with regard to Mr Lilley. The most superficially

obvious way in which the Conservatives could recapture the intellectual and political credibility lost last week would be for him to offer his resignation. This would be justified by the cavalier fashion in which he has treated his colleagues, both in the content of his argument and in assessing its consequences. But if Mr Lilley departed because of the dissent over his speech, the Labour Party could cheerfully portray his fall as the price that a Tory politician pays for uttering approving words about the NHS. This could be an even worse public relations disaster. There is thus at present no realistic alternative to Mr Lilley as deputy leader.

Nor will matters be improved by a change of party chairman. Three weeks ago Mr Hague could have still elevated Mr Portillo, by far the most attractive option, to that position. To turn to a potential rival now would look like an act of desperation. It would be easier to revisit this scenario if the Conservatives made unexpectedly strong gains in next week's elections. But if that happened, Mr Hague might conclude that he had no need to summon Mr Portillo to his rescue. There is thus little realistic chance that Mr Portillo can become Conservative Party chairman.

None of this means that Mr Hague should simply sit and wait for the current controversy to dissipate. Profound damage has been done and corrective measures need to be taken. His policy document, *Action for Britain*, scheduled for publication in September, has assumed increased importance. That text cannot afford to be late, vacuous, or timid. Mr Hague has effectively surrendered that process to Mr Lilley and this has been an unambiguous example of failed leadership. The Conservative leader needs to take personal charge of his policy review and drive it through to completion. He cannot afford to assume that there will be no realistic alternative to his continued command for ever.

## MIND THE GAP

Access to Justice must mean what it says

Legal aid exists to ensure that no one is denied access to the courts for lack of money. But the costs of the current system have soared since 1949, well beyond successive governments' willingness to pay. That is partly because the system has been abused for ill-founded claims. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has recognised that lawyers are inclined to accept cases, regardless of their merits, on the basis that the taxpayer will always pick up the bill. That is why his Access to Justice Bill rightly seeks to tackle the problem of indiscriminate litigation. The Bill seeks to scrap all legal aid for personal injury claims. Instead, lawyers are to take briefs on a "no win, no fee" basis.

The taxpayer may be the winner from this arrangement, but will justice? There are two sides to any action. Those who go to law on the basis that if they do not win they need not pay their own legal bills must still face the possibility that, if they lose, they must pay the other side's costs. The Lord Chancellor envisages that insurance schemes will, however, develop to cover the risk of losing an action.

The development of an insurance market is a neat solution. But only if it meets two concerns. Insurance must be widely available and easily affordable. And, for those who cannot always afford premiums but who need justice, there must be a certainty that their actions, if worthy, can proceed. The House of Lords has amended the Bill in an effort to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable potential litigants are not denied justice.

Insurance companies are prepared to exploit this new market, but they have their own obligations. They are inclined to offer cover only if they can be certain that most cases will be won. The mathematics of

insurance, and the need to spread risk, make such a calculation inevitable. It is fair to say that most cases which do not have a good chance of success should not be taken up. The insurance market could act as a surer judge of which cases are worth pursuing than lawyers who can rely on the taxpayer to fund speculative actions.

But there are still concerns. If an insurance market fails to mature then only those with very deep pockets will be able to pursue their claims. Some insurance companies are already refusing to deal with solicitors who lose too many cases. Even if solicitors do try to insure all their cases, they will still need to think carefully about the number of risky actions they take on. Injured people with cases which appear difficult may find it hard to find a solicitor. Then there is the cost factor. Even a standard personal injury claim is likely to cost more than £100 to insure.

The Lord Chancellor says that a "hard cases" fund will be set up to protect such people. But he has refused to write such protection into the Access to Justice Bill. The House of Lords amendment seeks to rectify this perceived failing. It tries to ensure that a safety net will exist in the legislation to cover all deserving cases. The amendment is supported by the Law Society and the Bar Council. The Lord Chancellor should not just dismiss their campaign as special pleading. While the amendment for which both they, and leading charities, have campaigned may not be the most effective means of balancing access to justice and taxpayers' concerns, there is a need for Lord Irvine to provide greater reassurance. His worthwhile reform should not be blighted by a perception that it will benefit the many at the expense of a deserving few.

## GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Why companies should help the homeless

Governments should not need to preach family values. When they do, it is a sure sign that the staple unit of society is breaking apart, that in an increasingly fragmented culture people are being cut adrift. The fallout is only too evident. The streets of London are home to a bedraggled army of beggars trailing blankets, beer cans and pet dogs on strings. At least 500 people in the capital are known regularly to sleep rough. And the problem does not end at King's Cross or Victoria. From Reading to Hove, they sprinkle the commuter belt. They are to be found in all Britain's city centres. Yesterday's visit by the Prince of Wales to The Passage, London's largest day centre for the homeless, served to publicise just how severe this problem has become.

The homeless cannot be stereotyped as a bunch of old alcoholics or aggressive scroungers too idle to work. They form a diverse community ranging from teenagers forced to flee abuses to former members of the Armed Forces. Food, a fixed address, access to washing facilities and a training in basic skills offer those who have stumbled a fresh opportunity to find work and self-respect.

This is where corporate leaders can offer essential support. As president of the charity Business in the Community, the

Prince of Wales yesterday urged business executives to consider innovative ways in which to reinstate homeless people in society. These may begin with straightforward material contributions, financial gifts or donations in kind. Clothing companies, for instance, might provide interview suits, or hoteliers old bed linen. But less tangible generosity is even more welcome. Company employees have many skills to pass on. They can offer their time in mentors' roles. And employers, rather than discriminating against the ambitious simply because they are homeless, could seek out such people in job placement schemes.

Only through personal contact with those who live on the streets can the more conventional community come to understand them. As the Prince himself found last year when he met a former school-fellow selling the *Big Issue*, the jobless and homeless are no breed apart. The danger is that they can become just that, drawn into drug-taking and despair. For public-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again. A recent survey asked people what they considered the most appropriate ways for large companies to mark the millennium. Almost 40 per cent cited homelessness. As the business world well understands, success lies in consumer satisfaction.

## Nato and plight of hapless Kosovans

From Group Captain Keith Chapman, RAF (ret'd)

Sir, The escalation of Nato's bombing campaign to include soft civilian targets such as the TV station in Belgrade (report, April 24) is not only a measure of its failure to achieve its original objectives, but also seriously undermines Nato's claim to the moral high ground.

Despite the propaganda and rhetoric coming from Brussels, Washington and Whitehall — including the optimistic assertion that Nato fortunes are set to improve dramatically with the deployment of US Apache helicopters (report, April 23) — the fact remains that bombing has done virtually nothing to alleviate the plight of the hapless Kosovo Albanians.

How many more missiles and bombs must be launched and how much more innocent blood must be shed before Nato's political leaders face up to the fact that they have dragged us into a war which no one can win? Common sense, if nothing else, cries out for an immediate end to the bombing and the simultaneous return of this complex problem to the only place where it can ultimately be resolved — the negotiating table.

Yours etc,  
K. CHAPMAN,  
9 Hedgecourt Place,  
Felbridge, Surrey RH19 2PJ.  
April 24.

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, As a member of the generation that "learned their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the United Nations could preside over a new world order" (report, "Labour Left split by passions of war", April 21), I must confess that, in my experience, Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell are as untypical of the views of this generational group on Kosovo as they are of the views in the country generally.

Presenting the Orwell awards for political journalism on March 30, Baroness Williams of Crosby made one of the strongest statements in support of British policy over Kosovo I have heard. A radical journalist present said to me: "No one in our generation, remembering what we saw and learnt in Europe after the war, could stand by and watch what is happening in Kosovo today without doing something." He, I and Baroness Williams were all Oxbridge, vintage 1948.

Much the same image of generational solidarity emerged during the public debate of 1989-91 over the war crimes legislation; though here it was confronting our elders led by Lord Shawcross, the late Lord Beloff and others.

Yours sincerely,  
D. CAMERON WATT  
(Professor Emeritus of International History),  
London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.  
April 26.

From Dr C. Storer

Sir, Day by day the media carry harrowing reports of children from Kosovo who have been separated from parents and of husbands who have been separated from wives, raising the question of whether the families can ever be reunited. Those concerned do not even know whether their loved ones are alive or dead, nor which country survivors may be in.

You carried an item on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database on the Internet (article, *Interface*, November 11, 1998; report, January 22). Using that database, one can obtain details such as location of grave or memorial of any one of the millions of Commonwealth casualties from wars this century. It took me less than five minutes to locate an individual record, and I am an Internet novice.

Could not the Government construct a similar database carrying the name and previous address in Kosovo of all refugees seeking relatives? Presumably this could be built so that refugees could enter their own details as well as search for records of loved ones. Setting up such a database might cost less than one cruise missile.

If the Government does not start the project, I offer my services for data input if one of your readers volunteers to construct the website.

Yours faithfully,  
C. C. STORER,  
Depping, Bevil Road,  
Parkgate, South Wiltal L64 6RR.  
cristor@storer.freeserve.co.uk  
April 28.

## Performance and pay

From Mr Robert Russell

Sir, Dr Alan Shrank (letter, April 26) accuses politicians advocating performance-related pay for teachers of pursuing policies "abandoned by those who have introduced them in the past", and claims that commerce is disenchanted with this policy.

Is he suggesting that employers should pay staff for simply turning up to work?

Yours faithfully,  
R. C. RUSSELL,  
The Granary,  
Bates Farm, Wittersham,  
Tenterden, Kent TN30 7PL.  
April 26.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Walden's 'donnish' political views

From Mr Russell Wood

Sir, I have always regarded George Walden [book extracts, April 26, 27 and 28] as someone who is a complete academic and who is absolutely out of place in the political world. All the politicians he condemns, compared to him, are true political animals.

For example, William Hague has a mastery of language in the House of Commons and easily outperforms Tony Blair. His reply to the Chancellor in the last Budget debate was absolutely outstanding. He is also an orator with Churchillian qualities of whom there have been very few since the war.

All of this, however, has been lost on the donnish George Walden.

Yours truly,  
RUSSELL WOOD,  
The White Cottage,  
Chigwell Village, Essex IG7 6QB.  
April 26.

From Mr J. McCubbin

Sir, The recollections of George Walden make terrific reading. The writing is witty and chock-a-block with flavour. They are insightful and gossipy.

The most astounding insight, however, must be the ease with which Walden could be persuaded to troop to the voting chamber of John Major's office (April 26). That a man in high office, at the peak of his career, in the pay of the taxpayer, could be so cheaply won over against his better judgment is astonishing. That he claims it was because he was so squeamish about the other opponents of Maastricht beggars belief.

When he considered the consequences of a major treaty with such profound implications for the future sovereignty of the nation, in truth, weak-willed Walden was of no more service to the nation than the paper-worshipping backbenchers of the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully,  
J. MCCUBBIN,  
Sandown House, Bakenell Street,  
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 5HJ.  
April 27.

## Tories and free market

From Mr Roger Hole

Sir, You report (April 26) Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, as saying: "In government we sometimes sounded as if we were only interested in markets... But someone suffering from cancer is a patient who wants to be cared for, not a customer within the internal market."

He seems to forget that in 1989, at the start of the Tory NHS reforms, every hospital doctor received a 15-page letter from Sir Duncan Nichol (then NHS Chief Executive) actually instructing all staff to look on all people using the NHS as "customers" — the word "patient" hardly appeared.

No one can be blamed if 15 pages of instruction stick in the memory rather longer than the occasional mis-understood comments of that Government, which he now seeks to correct as if they were just minor errors of presentation.

In 1987 I met William Hague for the first and only time: he seemed keen on the "internal market" for the NHS. A Tory decade of deliberate market policy in the NHS deserves a rather

stronger admission of culpability if the Opposition is to be believed.

Yours truly,  
ROGER HOLE  
(NHS consultant, 1973-95),  
Wynd House,  
The Wynd, Hutton Rudby,  
North Yorkshire TS15 0ES.  
April 26.

From Mr Kenneth J. Jordan

Sir, Peter Lilley is only half right when he says that "the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare" (report, April 21). Its role is, indeed, limited but the Conservative Party has not yet found or reached those limits.

Pusillanimous leadership which puts more faith in focus groups than in rigorous and radical thinking will never find those limits. Nor will it be entrusted with the task by the electorate.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH J. JORDAN,  
2 Roehampton, Cinder Hill,  
Chislehurst, East Sussex BN8 4HR.  
ken.jordan@btinternet.com  
April 27.

From Mr Tony Salter

Sir, Conservative politicians must be finding it hard to believe that George Walden was once their Honourable Friend.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY SALTER,  
38 Bennett Park,  
Blackheath, SE3 9RB.  
April 27.

## Pinochet extradition

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, Lord Lamont of Lerwick (letter, April 23) plaintively asks, regarding General Pinochet: "What sort of justice is it when... it is not necessary to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial?"

The short answer is that it is the justice that the Government of which Lord Lamont was a prominent member forced through Parliament when enacting the Extradition Act 1989, Section 9(4). That sub-section provides precisely the matter of which Lord Lamont now complains.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT RHODES,  
4 King's Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, Lord Lamont makes an important point about the damage done to British justice by the most recent decision of the Home Secretary in the Pinochet extradition proceedings, especially in view of the implication of the law lords' statement that the number of cases of alleged malpractice had been reduced to a possible maximum of three (reports, March 23).

But there is further cause for concern with a Government that preaches openness but does not practise it. The Pinochet case can be discussed in the press, on the radio, on television, but not in Parliament where ministers claim it is "sub judice". Given that the decisions by the Home Secretary are strictly political this seems a most curious manifestation of democracy.

Yours faithfully,  
MONTGOMERY,  
House of Lords.  
April 26.

## Name of the game

From Mrs Angela Callaghan

Sir, You provided today two wonderful examples of people's names eminently fitting the jobs they do. In the Dr Stunaford article on obesity we had a Professor Michael Lean pronouncing on weight management; and in Birthdays today, the Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey has the charming name of Mr Donald Buttress.

This makes a lovely start to the day. Yours faithfully,  
ANGELA CALLAGHAN,  
59a Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9EN.  
April 27.

## A Mir Welshman?

From Mr Anthony Moorman

Sir, Peter Lewellyn, who is said to have agreed to pay for a week-long flight on the Mir space station (report, April 28), is described as a "space-mad Welshman" and as a successful "British businessman".

I wonder whether he will be "successful British businessman who buys trip to space" or "a Welshman who failed to buy space holiday"?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY MOORMAN,  
67a Boroughgate,  
Odey, West Yorkshire LS21 1AG.  
April 28.

## Clue to man's 'hybrid' ancestry

From Dr Euan W. MacKie

Sir, Your report (April 21) about the discovery in the Lapedo Valley in Portugal of the skeleton of the four-year-old part-Neanderthal boy, about 24,500 years in age, arouses interest, not least because of the claims made about its great significance for our understanding of the relationship between these archaic humans and the newly arrived modern people, our ancestors. The skeleton is positively said by Professor Erik Trinkaus to show interbreeding between the two groups, hitherto thought of as implacably mutually hostile.

The most obvious physical feature of the Neanderthal people was their skull, with its heavy brow ridge and sloping forehead combined with a very large brain, yet the skull in this case is described as fragmentary. Is it really possible to detect a hybrid individual primarily from limb bones, particularly when they are of an immature boy? The days are long gone when Neanderthals were thought to have had a shuffling, stooping gait with bent long bones; these bones were very similar to ours, though somewhat more robust.

Even if the skeleton does prove to be a hybrid, can we be as confident as Professor Trinkaus and agree that this is not a one-off "love child" but a sign of a more general mixing of the sub-species? Portugal is a long way west from the northward land route through the Near East followed by Homo sapiens when he left Africa (according to one view) and may not be typical.

The stratigraphical evidence from several rock shelters in the Dordogne is well interpreted as showing clearly that, somewhat earlier, there was an abrupt replacement of the Neanderthals by physically modern people and this evidence is not altered by the new discovery.

Yours faithfully,  
EUAN W. MACKIE  
(Honorary research fellow),  
Hunterian Museum,  
University of Glasgow,  
University Avenue,  
Glasgow G12 8QQ.  
April 22.

From Mr Shaun Taylor

Sir, The discovery of a skeleton of a young child, apparently with characteristics from both modern man and Neanderthals, is certainly a setback to the old theory that humans actively participated in the extinction of their cousins.

If the boy's skeleton is the offspring of an interbreeding of the two species the question remains, as your report suggests, as to why modern European DNA is not closer to Neanderthal DNA than DNA from other parts of the world.

Possibly, either the offspring of such couplings were sterile, or hybrid organisms frequently are, or the offspring were prone to die before they reached adulthood.

Yours faithfully,  
SHAUN TAYLOR,  
204 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire HP13 7LY.  
April 21.

## EU patron saint

From Professor Emeritus Edward Gorden

Sir, St Cecilia should be the patron saint of the EU (letters, April 14, 21 and 28).

As the patron saint of music, which crosses all artificial, man-made boundaries, she could help to bring harmony to all the participating countries of the Union. Furthermore, is it not about time that we had a woman in such a position?

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD GORDEN,  
91 Millhouses Lane,  
Sheffield S7 2HD.  
April 28.

## Name of the game

From Mrs Angela Callaghan

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Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY MOORMAN,  
67a Boroughgate,  
Odey, West Yorkshire LS21 1AG.  
April 28.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

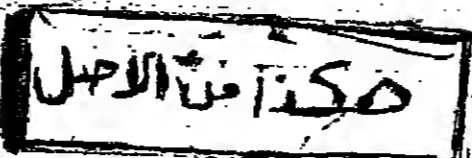




## هكذا من الأصل

# The \$20bn meeting at Goldman

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BUSINESS • ARTS • BOOKS • SPORT • TELEVISION

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

# Jude and the Obscure

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## Nat Power chief goes in shake-up

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL POWER, the country's biggest non-nuclear generator, has sacked its chief executive and is to review strategy in an effort to revive flagging confidence in the company.

National Power also gave warning yesterday that it was reviewing its dividend policy, which is expected to result in a substantial cut, and that profits would be hit by the sale of the Drax power station. The sacking and shake-up have reignited bid speculation in the City and the shares rose 15p to 406 1/2p.

Keith Henry was told to go by the board after a series of apparent U-turns in National Power's strategy, a poor performance in the share price and mounting criticism from investors and unions.

Mr Henry, who joined the generator four years ago from Brown & Root, is expected to get a pay-off of nearly £1 million. Last year he earned an £859,924 package and was given performance-related shares worth £313,000. He has 244,898 share options but 49,582 of those have a strike price higher than the current share price.

Although National Power said that Mr Henry resigned, it is understood that he did not want to leave but was given no option at a boardroom showdown on Tuesday.

His departure comes at a difficult time for National Power as it seeks to find a buyer for Drax. After yesterday's warning, analysts now expect annual pre-tax profits to be cut by £100 million a year once the sale of Drax is completed, although the station contributed £200 million to operating profits in the year to March 31. The generator is also to review its capital structure, triggering ex-



Henry: told to go by board



Collins: long look at strategy

pectations that it could mount a share buyback after the sale of Drax.

Things started to go wrong for National Power in March last year when it issued a £130 million UK profits warning because of the end of the coal contracts. This was followed by an international profits warning in the autumn. The generator further shook confidence in February this year when it emerged that it had been in merger talks with United Utilities. National

Power had always said it didn't want a full regional electricity business, let alone a water and electricity business such as United.

A search is now on for a successor to Mr Henry. Sir John Collins, the non-executive chairman, is to act in an executive role until an appointment is made while Graham Brown, the managing director, will become chief operating officer. Sir John, who is chief executive of Avesta, wants someone with different skills to those of Mr Henry. Mr Henry was seen as a build and buy chief executive whose vision was unhinged by the Government's order to sell power stations and by the changing UK electricity market.

One name likely to be in the frame is John Devaney, former head of the Energy Group, who left the company shortly after its takeover by Texas Utilities. Mr Devaney would be seen as more focused and determined than Mr Henry, who has for long been compared unfavourably with the forthright Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen.

Sir John said: "I will be taking a long look at the strategy and seeking the right person for the job. We will take as much time as necessary."

Peter Atherton, analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said Mr Henry's removal put National Power properly into play as a bid prospect after months of expectation because of its poor performance. He said: "The management team has disappointed the investment community too much over the past 16 months."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "It is to be hoped that National Power now achieves stability and purpose. The company clearly has enormous potential but that has not been achieved yet." National Power is to set its final dividend at 19p (18p), making a total of 28.6p (27p).

## Nethercott sacked over 'scam'

Managing director lied to the board, says chairman

BY FRASER NELSON

RAY NETHERCOTT, the managing director of Allied Carpets who quit the company last Friday, was sacked yesterday for allegedly lying repeatedly about his part in the accounting scandal that hit the company last year.

Julian Lee, chairman, said the board has evidence to prove Mr Nethercott was aware about a "phantom sales" scam that came to light in July last year. Mr Nethercott has had his contract terminated without compensation.

Mr Lee said: "I had always thought I had known Ray quite well, but clearly I didn't. He told the board he had no idea about the goings-on. I was extremely surprised and shocked to learn this was not the case."

It is unclear whether Mr Nethercott may be liable to prosecution by allegedly misleading Arthur Andersen, the auditors who resigned over the affair. Paul Manser, partner at law firm Taylor Joynson Garrett, said Section 17 of the Theft Act, outlaws company directors making false statements with the intent of misleading shareholders. He added that Section 233 of the Companies Act states that directors who knowingly approve false accounts are guilty of an offence.

Allied Carpets admitted last summer that its store managers had been marking a carpet as "sold" as soon as an order was placed. The practise, known as "pre-dispatching", is not illegal but violated company policy that sales should not be marked as completed until delivery. The scam blattered trading figures and led to £3 million charge against profits last year.

Eight months ago, David Pout, finance director, resigned with a £221,000 payoff. He said he had no knowledge of the scam. Steve Barber, sales manager also left with £156,000 compensation.



David Pout, left, with Ray Nethercott, who was sacked by Allied Carpets on Friday

## Business Today

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Graham Searjeant  
on false Messiahs

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STOCK MARKET INDEXES

FTSE 100	6086.9	(+5.2)
FTSE All Share	3041.84	(+2.63)
Nikkei	10942.24	(-15.05)
Dow Jones	10845.74	(+14.08)
S&P Composite	1357.86	(-4.94)

US RATE

Federal Funds	4 1/4%	(4 1/4%)
90-day bill	5 1/2%	(5 1/2%)
6-month bill	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
1-year bill	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.6150*	(1.6102)
London	1.6151	(1.6163)
SF	1.5157*	(1.5170)
Yen	119.06*	(120.37)
£ index	108.3	(108.6)

COMMODITIES

Oil (WTI)	22.45	(22.55)
Gold	328.45	(328.15)

\* denotes midday trading prices  
Exchange rates Page 28

## Chairman ready to underwrite Ashley issue

BY FRASER NELSON

LAURA ASHLEY yesterday sold its loss-making US stores for just \$1 and was then cast a further financial lifeline by Dr Kay Peng Khoo, the company's Malaysian billionaire chairman, who has agreed to underwrite another rescue rights issue.

The £24.6 million rights issue is likely to see Dr Khoo raise the 40 per cent stake owned by his MUI Asia empire, to 60 per cent.

The sale of its disastrous US venture sees Laura Ashley retaining debts accrued of £34 million. Goldman Sachs, its merchant bank adviser, has been looking for a buyer since last September. The \$1 paid by its management is understood to have been the only offer received. It was told it was in danger of being put into receivership unless it sold the US

shops. Laura Ashley has already spent the £44 million it raised when it originally asked for Dr Khoo's help last year. It also had a £50 million bank overdraft facility which expired last Friday. The company has now negotiated a new £43 million overdraft facility which expires next April.

If there is no support for the 199 million shares being issued at 13p apiece then MUI and Dr Khoo will take them up. One analyst said yesterday: "The City institutions will not be supporting this rights issue. The Malaysians are welcome to it." Laura Ashley yesterday also reported a loss of £31.9 million for the year to January 30, an improvement on the £49.3 million loss last time.

Commentary, page 29

## Unigate lifts bid for Terranova

UNIGATE, the food and dairy group, looked odds-on last night to win in its hostile attempt to take control of Terranova, the prepared foods business spun out of Hillsdown Holdings last year (Robert Cole writes).

Unigate raised its 125p-a-share cash offer to 150p late yesterday, and revealed that it had secured a promise from Phillips & Drew, the pension fund manager, to support the new offer. The offer is final unless a rival bid comes in of 160p or more. P&D speaks for 13.1 per cent of Terranova.

Crucially, however, in late trading, Unigate raised the market to acquire a 29.9 per cent stake in Terranova for itself. Together with P&D's 13 per cent and 5 per cent acceptances on the earlier bid terms, Unigate can count support from 48 per cent of Terranova stock.

Terranova said it is "considering" the revised offer. Its rose to 148 1/2p from 139p yesterday. Unigate added 13p to close at 438 1/2p.

## Business rate rises 'put City jobs at risk'

BY MARTIN WALLER

LONDON businesses face having to pay an extra £800 million a year when the new business rate comes in from April next year, according to research by two respected property consultants. There are fears that significant job losses will result.

Organisations such as the Corporation of London and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry are warning that the capital will be particularly badly hit this time around.

Although the new rates have yet to be set, research by Gerald Eve and CB Hillier Parker suggests that Central London could have to find an extra £4 billion over the next five years.

In the City, the evidence suggests that rates bills could rise by 70 per cent, while occupiers of new buildings could see

even higher rises. Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of London First, the inward investment agency, said a gradual phase-in of increased rates is essential if London is to compete with other European and world cities.

Opponents of the present system are also calling for an additional levy of 1p for every pound paid across the country in business rates. This would be set aside in a special fund to alleviate the highest increases.

Without any reform, said Mr O'Brien, "pressure may be renewed on existing businesses to relocate outside central London. One major consequence of this would be the potential loss of a large number of jobs."

## EU to investigate Longbridge deal

BY SIGRID AUFTERBECK



Van Miert: inquiry

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Union's Competition Commissioner, yesterday demanded that BMW produces evidence that its "Hungarian option" was ever a serious alternative to building its new Rover model at Longbridge.

Mr Van Miert has called for the information as the Commission launches an investigation into whether the aid granted by the British Government to ensure production stays in Birmingham should be approved by Brussels.

Speculation has increased that BMW's stated contingency plan of moving new Rover production to Hungary was just a ruse to squeeze financial support from the

British Government. The Department of Trade and Industry agreed last month to grant BMW, Rover's German parent, aid of about £150 million.

Sieffan Rating, a spokesman for Mr Van Miert, said: "Since the automobile industry is a sensitive sector with existing overcapacities, the limits that apply for subsidies are particularly tight. To be eligible for aid, BMW must prove that investing in Britain would be substantially more expensive than elsewhere outside the EU."

Jürg Danner, a spokesman for BMW, said: "We had informal talks in Hungary about specific sites there but we always made it clear that Longbridge was our preferred location."

Tony Woodley, the union negotiator at

Rover, said he was confident that BMW would have enough evidence to convince the Commission about the Hungarian option. "Once Mr Van Miert sees the facts, he will learn that there had been a serious competing bid from the Hungarian side," he said.

If BMW fails to produce any evidence, opposition to the subsidy will mount. Wendelin Widukind, head of Porsche, threatened in March to challenge the aid package. Only last week, Ford was eager to point out that production of a new model at its Dagenham plant, which will increase production there by two thirds, will be launched without subsidies.

Commentary, page 29



By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND FRASER NELSON

A Scottish Telecom Compt

the half-centennial business and its dry-lies business when together have sales of about £15 billion

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# Time to pull rug from under Lee



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Julian Lee is not resigning as the chairman of Allied Carpets. Despite being an accountant and having been blissfully unaware of the long-running accounting irregularities that have caused Allied such difficulties, Mr Lee has no intention of deserting his shareholders.

They may not find this a source of great comfort. Mr Lee remained in the chair of textile company Hollas as it descended into receivership. He took over as chairman of the business in 1993. In 1996 he was proclaiming that Hollas was on track to be a leading clothing supplier, despite appearances to the contrary. Less than two years later, it was gone.

Mr Lee may have been better able to take the disappointment than some of his shareholders: he had made £3 million after leading the buyout of Broom from British & Commonwealth Holdings and selling it on. British & Commonwealth, however, did not survive for much longer.

Mr Lee was the chairman of Allied Carpets when it came to market in 1996, the prospectus signed off by the chaps at Arthur Andersen, his old firm. If the auditors could not spot what was going on at Allied, then perhaps it was not surprising that the chairman missed the trick. But Arthur Andersen is the company's auditor no longer.

If executives are out to hoodwink the auditors, they can often

succeed. It happened at Wickes, for instance, where a complicated system produced different invoices for different audiences. The Allied accounting rules seem to have been such that Sherlock Holmes might have found it hard to spot the discrepancies.

As the £2 million black hole was exposed, executives bowed out but Ray Nethercott remained at his desk. He may not have been the best at selling carpets, but he excelled at keeping things under them. In August last year, as the Allied share price sank to 53p because of the scandal, he vowed that "the rebuilding process starts today". But it did not. Yesterday Allied was looking even more sickly, its shares at just 39p. Last year venture capitalist Alchemy was proffering a bid at 55p but found its offer spurned after an initial friendly reaction.

Shareholders will not see the like of that again. Allied's problems now go well beyond its accounting systems and straight to sales. Lord Harris of Peckham would have taken the firm out of its misery if the competition authorities would have allowed. Instead of that, he is simply taking the business. The carpet king has

no qualms about hitting a competitor when it is down and Carpetright is offering promotions that Allied cannot afford to equal.

Mr Lee may have seized his ample frame into the managing director's chair, but he will need to move fast to fight Lord Harris. Shareholders might feel inclined to suggest that he bows out with his managing director and does not risk another Hollas.

## What hope for lovelorn Laura?

There are celebrations all round at Goldman Sachs, as even the humblest telephonist looks forward to a band-on of shares that should yield a hefty bonus in future years. Were she in kindly mood, she might contemplate blowing some of that future wealth in advance on a Laura Ashley outfit. That Laura Ashley is still

afloat is testimony to the remarkable skills of the investment banking house and its star turn, John Thornton, in particular. But the Malaysians who were persuaded to save Laura from bankruptcy by the then chairman, one John Thornton, must be wondering what on earth they saw in her.

Now MUI is faced with putting £25 million more into keeping the old girl afloat. Their intention must be that, once they emerge as the majority owners of the business, they will be able to take it private so that they can conceal further indignities from public view. Mr Thornton will then be absolved from his current non-executive directorship and be able to wipe out the whole sorry episode — if Sir Bernard Ashley will let him.

If the irascible Sir Bernard had been able to accept that Ashley stopped being a family business the day it was floated, the picture might look very different

now. Instead, he interfered and the company suffered a rapid succession of managers.

The current incumbents face a difficult task, even if they will be soon addressing it away from the glare of the public spotlight. Laura may still have her fans, although by now they must be confused as to whether she stands for pretty prints or modern tailoring of the kind favoured by Anne Iversen. But shoppers are not splashing their money around, as Arcadia made clear yesterday. The tenor of the statement from the company was not quite as gloomy as the figures it reported, but chief executive John Hoerner was far from upbeat about the prospects on the high street. Arcadia has cut back its forecasts and is keeping prices in check.

Its high street chains may face a toughening up of the competition as Philip Green gets to work on the Sears businesses that he now owns. Mr Green would find it hard to make a worse job of run-

ning them than the previous management, but the chances are that he will soon be pockmarked the proceeds from selling them on to others. Mr Hoerner must be wondering whether he should stand back and risk a sharper competitor getting hold of his rivals or dig deep and buy them himself.

## Burns goes to extra time on penalties

Steering the new Financial Services Act onto the statute books was never going to be an easy task but expecting Lord Burns to knock it into shape within just four weeks was asking the impossible. The former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury is a man of many talents but distilling the concerns of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament over one of the more controversial pieces of proposed legislation would be a rushed job with a six-month timetable.

Lord Burns does not have the luxury of that but he has been allotted another month. The issues of concern that have arisen were predictable. There is some worry over the definition of market abuse, a failing which is proba-

bly more easily discernible in practice than it is on paper. Those drafting the legislation feel sure that a Clapham omnibus-riding IFA or broker would recognise market abuse when he met it.

The issue of greatest concern, however, remains the disciplinary powers with which the new authority is to be endowed and the fears that these might amount to a breach of human rights. Lawyers have exhibited unusual generosity of spirit in pointing out their suspicions on this front now instead of waiting to take on the cases that might be generated were the Bill to go unchallenged. Lord Burns should use his extra time to ensure that the disciplinary system will be speedy and fair, even if this makes it more costly.

## Subsiding subsidies

KAREL Van Miert's days as Competition Commissioner in Brussels may be numbered but he is not going to let that stand in his way now that the government subsidy for Rover has caught his attention. But as he huffs and puffs he might take note that between 1995 and 1997 the average subsidy for each worker employed in manufacturing industry in Italy was £2,302 and in Germany it was £1,569. For the UK, the figure was just £381. The Longbridge workers could argue that they deserve more.

## ICI sells paints business to PPG

By CARL MORTSHED  
INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS EDITOR

ICI is selling an industrial paints business to America's PPG for £425 million in a deal that will further reduce its borrowings after this month's £1.4 billion sale of the titanium dioxide and polyurethane businesses to Huntsman.

PPG is acquiring ICI's refinishing coatings, used in vehicle damage repair, and Grow Automotive, a North American solvents and thinners business, as well as a variety of industrial coatings operations in Latin America and Asia.

The deal will contribute a pre-tax profit of £190 million for ICI and the deal will have a neutral effect on earnings over the next year.

PPG has been attempting to build up its industrial coatings business over the past year, and earlier in April bought a minor coatings business from ICI in Germany. The US company lost out to Akzo Nobel in its attempted bid for Courtauld and missed acquiring Herbets, the coatings business which was sold by Hoechst to DuPont.

ICI's debt burden, taken on when the company acquired Unilever's fragrance and flavourings businesses, will fall to £2.3 billion after the disposals to Huntsman and PPG. It is still seeking buyers for the halocarbon chemicals and its acrylics business which together have sales of about £1.5 billion.

# TI tops up with Walbro of the US in £356m purchase

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

TI GROUP, the specialist engineering company, has made a \$570 million (£356 million) recommended takeover bid for Walbro, a petrol tank maker listed on Nasdaq.

The purchase, which is expected to enhance earnings from next year, is aimed at enabling TI to meet vehicle makers' demands for integrated fuel systems.

TI makes flowlines for transporting fuel to the engine and Walbro specialises in tanks made from advanced composite materials and petrol pumps. Walbro reported earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of \$79 million last year from sales of \$678 million.

The price includes \$388 million of assumed debt, most of which stems from Walbro's heavy capital investment programme of the past three years.

TI will also incur a \$25 million cost to buy out Walbro's management under that company's change of control provisions.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, the TI chairman, said that about \$9 million of this would be paid to Frank Bauchiero, Walbro's chief executive.

The total offer represents an earnings multiple of 7.2-times Walbro's 1998 earnings on an EBITDA basis.

It is pitched at a premium of more than 60 per cent to Walbro's share price shortly before the bid was announced.



TI chairman Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, with finance director Martin Angle. The deal includes \$388 million of debt

Sir Christopher said Walbro would meet TI's internal hurdle rate, which is a 15 per cent return on investment within three years of purchase. He said the deal would make TI the first company in the world to supply a totally integrated

fuel system. The composite materials used to make Walbro's tanks meant it would also be able to offer significant environmental advantages over its competitors. This was because there was less scope for hydrocarbons to escape, Sir Christo-

pher said the integrated fuel systems business was worth \$6.5 billion a year, of which TI would have 15 per cent.

Michael Blogg, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, said he had revised his 2000 forecast earnings growth for

TI from 11 per cent to 14 per cent on the back of the deal.

Mr Blogg said TI could be expected to lift Walbro's margins significantly from the current level of about 6 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

# Arcadia shares rise despite profits slump

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Arcadia yesterday rose 14 per cent as the Burton's to Principles retail group said it came out of the Christmas sales slump in better shape than the City expected.

The shares jumped 32½p to 272½p even though Arcadia turned in interim profits more than halved to £23 million (£50.3 million).

The company said that its sales growth returned in February and March, but stopped short of giving a figure.

Arcadia had been expected to be among companies hardest hit by the downturn in retail sales because it pays top rents for places in most UK high streets and retail parks.

John Hoerner, chief executive, said that the group lost about 15 percentage points in gross margin to shift-unsold

stock after Christmas, but had maintained its market share.

Analysts are divided on the share performance. Some question whether a £37 million charge for an internal shake-up should have been put as a one-off item. Others say Arcadia is being chased by fans of its Internet retail service, which has more than half the UK online market.

Mr Hoerner said: "These could not be described as good profit figures by any stretch of the imagination, but they are obviously better than some people were expecting."

Arcadia shares have fallen 14 per cent in the past ten days. Basic earnings per share were 19.5p (31.2p). The interim dividend is held at 4.7p.

Tempus, page 30

## M&S to leave Canada

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

MARKS & SPENCER has ended its disastrous 26-year foray into Canada, announcing yesterday that it would close its 38 stores within a year.

The move, which will cost M&S £25 million, has placed a big question mark over the future of the group's stores outside the UK, many of which also incur heavy losses.

M&S's Canadian arm has crawled out of the red just once since its creation in 1973, prompting questions from analysts yesterday about why the company was so slow in addressing the problem. It made an £8.3 million operating loss in the year to March 31, 1998.

An M&S spokeswoman said the decision had been prompted by the expiry of many of the store leases held in Canada. A strategic review of M&S's activities is due to be unveiled in June.

## Merger approach lifts Partco

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Partco rose 30 per cent after the car parts and crash repair company reported it is in possible takeover talks for the second time in less than ten months.

The talks centre around a possible £178 million bid — 245p per share — for the company, representing a premium of 36 per cent to the closing share price on Tuesday, the day before the talks were announced. Last year Partco rejected a £420 million merger approach from Finlist.

Analysts yesterday ruled out Finlist as a possible suitor because of its weak balance sheet. Another candidate is GE Capital, the US financial services company. Another possible bidder is Ford, which took over the Kwik-fit chain for £1 billion earlier this month. Partco is one of Kwik-fit's main car parts suppliers. Shares in Partco closed up 53½p yesterday at 233½p.

# First Leisure and Cannons halt talks

By DOMINIC WALSH

CANNONS GROUP and First Leisure yesterday abandoned plans to merge their health and fitness businesses — just two days after announcing that they were discussing a deal.

The merger, under which Cannons would have issued new shares to acquire First Leisure's fitness division, was terminated after the sides said they were "unable to reach agreement on the financial terms". A deal would have doubled Cannons's market value

to more than £500 million. Neither side would elaborate, although it is understood that the amount of debt First Leisure wanted to inject into the enlarged group was one of the issues. One analyst said: "Cannons is only in the market for deals that are earnings enhancing. What First Leisure brought to the table clearly wasn't earnings enhancing."

It is understood that three First Leisure executives would have joined the enlarged Cannons board, including Patrick Henchoz, the head of its fit-

ness division. Mr Henchoz last week received £4.3 million from the sale of a minority stake in ISL Leisure, one of First Leisure's subsidiaries. First Leisure paid a total of £13.8 million to buy out the 25 per cent of ISL it did not already own, the balance of £9.5 million going to Nash Sells & Partners, the venture capital group.

Cannons, formerly known as Vardon, may consider a move on Pinnacle Leisure, which abandoned plans for a £70 million flotation last year and is considering a possible trade sale. Cannons

said: "Cannons is an acquisitive company and is the strongest pure health and fitness company in the market financially. There are plenty of opportunities."

The failure of the talks heightens the pressure on Michael Grade, the First Leisure chief executive. The sale had been expected to result in a break-up of the company. Analysts expressed concern at the lack of action. First Leisure shares closed down 7½p at 246½p while Cannons was unchanged at 192½p.

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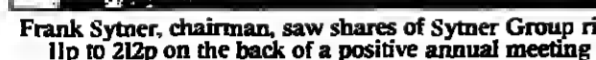


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**MICHAEL CLARK**



British Airways firmed 1p to 504½p after becoming the

not seen since August 1998. work markets and enjoy strong management.

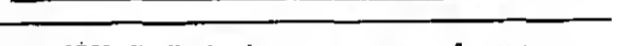
8 per cent 2021 shed 91p at £145.12, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 9p lighter at £105.76.

□ **NEW YORK:** US blue chips were mixed in early trading with cyclical strong. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 14.03 points to 10,845.74.

ue to Biogen's drug delivery technologies that allow medicines to be taken via aerosols and wax sticks. The Biosphere technology for controlled release of proteins looks particularly interesting. But many of these projects remain at an early stage.

A decent company, but at 340½p the shares are pricey.

**EDITED BY ROBERT COLE**



**BARGAIN** hunting is the name of the game these days. Some investors have been happy to plough their money into fashionable sectors such as drugs, telecoms and high-tech. Others would sooner seek out value among those companies left behind in the bull run.

Charterhouse Securities, the broker, maintains engineering and machinery is one such sector. It has outperformed the FTSE All-share by 10 per cent and restored value to those levels not seen since August 1998.

But Michael Blogg, at Charterhouse, insists that there is still value to be had. Comments made by Bodycote International at the time of its results were misinterpreted and the shares, down 12½p to 987½p, have scope for improvement.

Others on his shopping list include FKI, up 19p to 174p. McKeechnie, 5½p dearer at 447½p, and Vitec Group, 5p better at 562½p. All three companies are strongly placed in their world markets and enjoy strong management.

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)			GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel Gpm)			LIFFE WHEAT		LIFFE BAILEY	
Physical	16.36	+0.60	May	77.50	May	75.50
15 day (Lor)	16.36	+0.60	Nov	78.00	Nov	76.00
15 day (Lor) (Lor)	16.10	+0.85	Nov	77.15	Jan	77.25
Crude Intermediate	16.35	+0.65	Nov	77.15	Jan	77.25
Crude Intermediate (Afr)	18.00	+0.95	Nov	78.75	Jan	77.75
			Volume: 236		Volume: 100	
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			LIFFE POTATO (C/4)			
2nd CIF NW Europe (onmt delivery)			May	17.00	Oct	17.00
			May	17.00	Nov	17.00
1st Fuel Oil	189 (+3)	172 (+3)	Nov	17.00	Dec	17.00
2nd Fuel Oil	75 (+2)	74 (+2)	Nov	17.00	Dec	17.00
3rd Fuel Oil	136 (nvc)	140 (nvc)				Volume: 53
RPE FUTURES (GNI LOR)			RUBBER (1st RSS CN 10)			
			Jan		Jan	
131.50-132.50	135.50-137.50	137.50	LIFFE DEXFEE (GNI Ld 150/4)			
130.50-132.50	135.50	137.50	Apr 99	1075	1015	1020
132.50-134.50	137.50	139.50	May 99	1075	1045	1020
			Jun 99	1075	1045	1020
DIBENT (Bulgaria)			Jul 99	1075	1045	1020
16.25-16.35	16.50	16.75	Oct 99	1075	1045	1020
16.25-16.35	16.50	16.75	Nov 99	1075	1045	1020
15.85-15.95	16.00	16.30				Index 1029 + 34
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			RUSSELL WHEAT			
Cash: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
3mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
6mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
9mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
12mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
15mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
18mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
21mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
24mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
27mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
30mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
33mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
36mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
39mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
42mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
45mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
48mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
51mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
54mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
57mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
60mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
63mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
66mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Nov	132.00	Nov	132.00
69mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	Jan	132.00	Jan	132.00
72mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00	May	132.00	May	132.00
75mo: 13210-13240	331.50-344.00	344.00				

Sec	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500	1550	1600	1650	1700	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500	2550	2600	2650	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500	4550	4600	4650	4700	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000	5050	5100	5150	5200	5250	5300	5350	5400	5450	5500	5550	5600	5650	5700	5750	5800	5850	5900	5950	6000	6050	6100	6150	6200	6250	6300	6350	6400	6450	6500	6550	6600	6650	6700	6750	6800	6850	6900	6950	7000	7050	7100	7150	7200	7250	7300	7350	7400	7450	7500	7550	7600	7650	7700	7750	7800	7850	7900	7950	8000	8050	8100	8150	8200	8250	8300	8350	8400	8450	8500	8550	8600	8650	8700	8750	8800	8850	8900	8950	9000	9050	9100	9150	9200	9250	9300	9350	9400	9450	9500	9550	9600	9650	9700	9750	9800	9850	9900	9950	10000
Sec	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500	1550	1600	1650	1700	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500	2550	2600	2650	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500	4550	4600	4650	4700	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000	5050	5100	5150	5200	5250	5300	5350	5400	5450	5500	5550	5600	5650	5700	5750	5800	5850	5900	5950	6000	6050	6100	6150	6200	6250	6300	6350	6400	6450	6500	6550	6600	6650	6700	6750	6800	6850	6900	6950	7000	7050	7100	7150	7200	7250	7300	7350	7400	7450	7500	7550	7600	7650	7700	7750	7800	7850	7900	7950	8000	8050	8100	8150	8200	8250	8300	8350	8400	8450	8500	8550	8600	8650	8700	8750	8800	8850	8900	8950	9000	9050	9100	9150	9200	9250	9300	9350	9400	9450	9500	9550	9600	9650	9700	9750	9800	9850	9900	9950	10000
Sec	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500	1550	1600	1650	1700	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500	2550	2600	2650	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500	4550	4600	4650	4700	4750	4800	4850																																																																																																							

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
<b>Long Gift</b>							
	Jun 99	116.42	116.47	115.88	116.98	53294	81579
	Sep 99				115.70	0	0
<b>5-Year Gift</b>							
	Jun 99				107.22	0	0
	Sep 99				107.22	0	0
<b>Italian Govt Bond</b>	Jun 99	114.77	114.77	114.49	114.87	11255	38117
<b>Japanese Govt Bond</b>	Jun 99	134.98	135.08	134.93	135.85	1056	0
	Sep 99	134.16	134.16	134.16	134.25	0	0
<b>3-Mth Sterling</b>	Jun 99	94.800	94.820	94.700	94.810	9678	182896
	Sep 99	94.830	94.820	94.730	94.830	21834	183631
	Dec 99	94.580	94.630	94.570	94.600	18974	148441
<b>3-Mth Eurobor</b>	Jun 99	97.418	97.418	97.385	97.400	25117	226747
	Sep 99	97.410	97.410	97.385	97.405	21856	219160
	Dec 99	97.225	97.225	97.205	97.210	11471	134525
<b>3-Mth Euroswiss</b>	Jun 99	97.235	97.235	97.270	97.300	16320	116359
	Mar 00	97.210	97.210	97.200	97.230	7500	67443
<b>3-Mth Euro Libor</b>	Jun 99	96.830	96.830	96.870	96.970	10305	100192
	Sep 99	96.840	96.830	96.850	96.880	8107	67383
<b>3-Mth Euro Libor</b>	Jun 99	97.400	97.400	97.400	97.400	11	104552
	Sep 99	97.400	97.400	97.400	97.405	18	91788
	Dec 99	97.400	97.400	97.400	97.400	0	82781
	Mar 00	97.270	97.270	97.280	97.280	8	82219
	Jun 00	97.180	97.190	97.190	97.200	14	62050

## MONEY RATES (%)

Basis Rates: Clearing Banks \$; Finance House \$;  
Discount Market Loans: Overnight High \$; Low \$;  
Treasury Bills (90-day) 2 m 3 m 4 m 6 m 8 m 12 m  
Week-end: 5 m

	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5-5 1/2	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4
Selling Money Rates:	5-5 1/2	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4
Interbank:	5-5 1/2	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4
Overnight, open \$; close \$:				
Local Authority Depos:	5%	n/a	5%	5%
Starting Cash:	5-5 1/2	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4
Call Money CD:	4-6 1/2	4-6 1/2	4-6 1/2	4-6 1/2
Floating Society CDs:	5-5 1/2	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4	5-5 1/4

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5-4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5-4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5-4
Sterling:	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Swiss:	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
West:	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Canada:	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

Bullion: Open: \$382.50-382.80	Close: \$382.20-382.70	High: \$383.00-383.40
Low: \$382.10-382.60	Ask: \$382.80	PM: \$383.00
Ungold: \$393.00-395.00	(1715.00-177.00)	
Platinum: \$333.00 (\$217.30)	Silver: \$5.255 (\$12.45)	Palladium: \$338.50 (\$208.95)

Bid Rates for April 28		Close	1 month	3 Month
Openings	11.253-11.239	11.263-11.258	1/2-1/2	1/2-1/2
London	1.5180-1.5000	1.5182-1.5197	0.13-0.15%	0.42-0.45%
Montreal	2.3835-2.3820	2.3895-2.3884	0.15-0.17%	0.36-0.32%
New York	1.6146-1.6144	1.6146-1.6156	0.062-0.042%	0.138-0.107%
Osaka	12.532-12.512	12.586-12.600	1/2-1/2	1/2-1/2
Stockholm	3.466-13.659	3.535-13.559	1/2-1/2	1/2-1/2
Tokyo	1.91-191.26	2.33-192.56	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2
Utrecht	2.4344-2.4442	2.4221-2.4442	1/2-1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2

Source: Exel

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Australia.....	1.5283-1.5295
Canada.....	1.4752-1.4762
Denmark.....	6.9690-6.9710
Euro.....	0.9356-0.9384
Hong Kong.....	7.7503-7.7508
Japan.....	116.68-116.73
Malaysia.....	3.8000-3.8001
Norway.....	7.7745-7.7795
Singapore.....	1.6975-1.6985
Sweden.....	8.3478-8.3565
Switzerland.....	1.5074-1.5084

Australia dollar	0.7020-2.4554
Bahraini dinar	2.6720-0.6172
Brazil real	2.7420-2.7520
Cyprus pound	0.8630-0.8844
Euro	1.5143-1.5168
Finland marks	8.9216-9.0845
Greece drachma	488.00-500.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.5349-12.5388
India rupee	58.40-70.12
Indonesia rupiah	1347.00-14170.00
Kuwaiti dinar KD	0.4875-0.4989
Malaysia ringgit	6.1446-6.1486
New Zealand dollar	2.9325-2.9397
Pakistan rupee	79.25 BU
Saudi Arabian riyal	5.8175-5.9647
Singapore dollar	2.7444-2.7477
S Africa rand	9.9740-9.8558
U A E dirham	5.8675-6.0161

**Barclays Treasury** \* **Lloyds Bank**

3i	854	Kingfisher	13,768
ASDA Co	27,391	Ladbrokes	14,546
Ashley Nat	2,116	Land Securities	14,547
Ashley & Leic	1,218	Landis	9,434
Affiliated Dom	2,468	Leighs TSB	9,434
Affiliated Zich	4,627	Merrys Star	6,173
Armstrong	1,200	Milvus	1,949
AR Foods	915	Nat Grid	7,876
Arco	3,653	Nat Power	10,553
Arco of Scot	4,496	Natwest Bank	1,853
ARM	2,437	Norwich Un	1,767
B&B	1,073	Orange	3,761
Bancays	1,573	P & O	4,476
Bell	11,698	Paragon	2,279
BIG	4,070	PowerGen	1,054
BIOC	793	Prudential	11,509
bt	5,738	Railtrack	3,307
btc	1,116	Reckitt Ben	1,116

ST	8,455	Police Report	1,363
BT	11,765	Highly & Jan	1,987
CB	1,438	High Bk St	1,743
CD	3,524	High Brackets	1,740
CE	2,699	High Bridges	1,740
CF	2,428	High C & New	2,237
CG	11,245	High C & New	2,028
CH	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CI	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CJ	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CK	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CL	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CM	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CN	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CO	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CP	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CQ	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CR	1,438	High C & New	1,740
CS	1,438	High C & New	1,740
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THE GOLDMAN SACHS ACCOUNT

# The great partnership passes away

In 1998, Goldman Sachs went from strength to strength, earning more than a billion dollars in each of the first two quarters. Only 24 months after rejecting the notion of becoming a public company, the landscape — the firm's fortunes, the markets, and its competition — had changed entirely. In December 1997, Jon Corzine (senior partner) had publicly stated that the firm to remain private and that the issue of a public offering would not, he believed, be on the agenda in 1998. But the rampant bull market, which saw the Dow rise from 7,400 to 9,200 during the spring and continued to increase the valuations given to investment banks, as well as rapid consolidation in the securities industry, contributed to the firm's decision to reconsider its private status in a project aptly named Echo.

From 1995 to 1997, Goldman Sachs had watched Morgan Stanley merge with retail-based Dean Witter; Salomon Brothers combine forces with Smith Barney and Citibank; Union Bank of Switzerland join with Swiss Bank Corporation; and Bankers Trust purchase niche mergers and acquisition expert Alex Brown.

But perhaps the biggest threat to the firm's continuing existence as a private independent investment bank came not from these mergers but from Merrill Lynch's purchase of the massive Mercury Asset Management. Goldman Sachs may or may not have wanted to buy Mercury, but it probably did not have the option to do so. As a private company, with no stock, it would have been extremely difficult for the firm to spend the more than \$5 billion Merrill Lynch paid for the British fund manager. Early in 1998 Goldman Sachs had considered purchasing a stake in Garanti, the premier Brazilian investment bank, but the deal fell through. As other opportunities like this arose in asset management or bargains cropped up in the battered Asian economies, the firm was hamstrung without public shares to use as an acquisition currency. Some of the financial opportunities, as in the case of Merrill Lynch taking over bankrupt Yamaichi Securities or Salomon Brothers' investment in Nikko Securities at a time when the value of Japanese assets was depressed, would be short-lived, depending as they did on economic conditions that might soon change. The partners needed to act decisively and quickly if they were to capitalise on this window of opportunity.

"Structure follows strategy" was the watchword of the firm's newest committee, established in March as a sub-committee of the operating committee. Hank Paulson (vice-chairman) led a group of eight department heads in a review of the firm's strategy. The strategy committee was charged with surveying the terrain for the next five to ten years, imagining the world of 2008 and determining what kind of institution Goldman Sachs would be when it got there.

As they had done before the 1996 meeting, the partnership and operating committees held a joint meeting in New York in May to hear the strategy committee's report. This was a very different meeting than the one that had taken place two years earlier. And although most of the faces in the room were the same, the outcome would be entirely different.

At this two-day meeting the strategy committee laid before the most senior partners a plan

for vigorous expansion. The report rejected the notion of Goldman Sachs joining the ranks of banking behemoths. The firm would not rush out and combine forces with Chase Manhattan or JP Morgan, as had often been speculated. Goldman Sachs did not need to be a supermarket of financial services — the opportunities in its existing client and proprietary businesses were deemed more than ample for the firm to grow.

Goldman Sachs would continue down the path it had been on, albeit at a much faster pace. The firm had ambitious plans for expansion. Over the next five years the firm planned to double the number of people working in its client-serving business, which, it believed, would more than double the amount of revenue it earned. Building the firm's asset management through organic growth or small purchases, which is what the firm had done to date, was rejected in favour of much more aggressive acquisitions, particularly in Europe and Japan.

Many of the important strategic arguments — the possibility of making a large acquisition, defraying partners' risk, and facilitating rapid expansion — strongly suggested a sale. The lone hurdle was the cultural issue. One current partner feels that the issue boiled down to: "How do you walk in here the next day and look a guy in the face who has worked here for eight to ten years and tell him you've just taken away his opportunity to be a partner of the firm?"

Tension built as the fateful meeting approached. Corzine told all employees early in June that they needed to hang on a little longer until there was resolution and that the management was glad to be facing this decision in a period of strength without the backdrop of financial anxieties. He also announced that Paulson would be named co-chairman and co-CEO of the firm, a position equal to Corzine's. It was a return to the past, to a management formula that had worked so well for the firm before.

Going into the June 12 meeting many felt the decision could go either way. Everyone knew that in 1996, Corzine, Paulson, (Roy) Zuckerberg, and (Robert) Hurst had supported a sale, and many believed that they would again, yet there were widespread reports of opposition by the youngest members, (John) Thain and (John) Thornton. As in the two previous partnership-wide meetings on this subject, no one doubted that management would not proceed with a sale if it lacked the overwhelming support of the firm's owners. And because of the division within the executive committee, the threshold for support among the partners would need to be high — a simple majority would not suffice.

There was one crucial difference from the two earlier meetings. In 1996 the newest class of partners had only been on the job for six days and had almost no equity. In 1996, the equity of new 1994 partners was also relatively small, since 1995 was not a particularly strong year. But when the 1996 partners were asked to consider a public sale in 1998 they had already booked one record year and a second looked more than likely; therefore they would have much larger capital stakes to sell. Although it is always the most junior partners who are disadvantaged by a sale, in 1998, in part because of the inflated valua-



ON TUESDAY, Goldman Sachs will float on the New York Stock Exchange, so ending 130 years of partnership and turning hundreds of senior executives, including Hank Paulson, left, and Jon Corzine into multimillionaires. Twice before, in 1986 and 1996, Goldman came close to ending its partnership structure, but pulled back from the brink. In the first of two exclusive extracts from *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* by Lisa Endlich, the story of how Goldman finally decided to become a public company can be told.

tions the stock market had placed upon investment banks well into the summer months, for this group the economics would be compelling.

Goldman Sachs's 190 partners retreated on Friday, June 12, to the IBM Palisades executive conference centre north of New York City, where they clustered themselves in a red brick and timber complex on top of a hill. Security was high, with extra plain clothes security guards on duty, and the entrances to the compound were closed. The location of the meeting had been kept secret, and many members of the press congregated at the Arrowwood conference centre, assuming the meeting would be there. Even with the extra security one journalist climbed over the fence and another tried to infiltrate the meeting using a fake ID card. As rain poured down outside, the partners faced what Paulson called a decision of "grave importance... one of the most important things the firm will ever do."

As had been the case in 1986 and 1996, the format of the two-day meeting included a presentation by the committee studying the firm's options, a 50-page folio of financial scenarios, and an open and spirited debate by the entire partnership. No one expected there to be a vote at this gathering; there was no formal proposal

and nothing to vote on. The partnership would signal its interest to the executive committee, and later, if it was deemed to be the will of the group, a specific proposal would be drawn up on which the partners would then vote.

Paulson spoke at the first session on Friday morning, and his words set the tone for the next two days. Paulson's goal was to make all partners in the room re-examine their position and rethink any assumptions they might have held before

addressed the group on a subject close to his heart — fairness. But first he felt a responsibility to read a letter he had received from John Weinberg and John Whitehead (former chiefs of Goldman Sachs) the previous afternoon. The two Johns were opposed to the partners' selling the firm. They believed strongly that "if it ain't broke don't fix it". Both were committed to the notion that the partnership was one of the things that had made the firm great and that it would be a mistake to tamper with it. Corzine had spoken to Weinberg, who had assured his successor that he would support wholeheartedly whatever decision the partners made. Those who heard Corzine speak remember that he annotated these remarks by reminding those assembled that Weinberg as well as other former Goldman chairmen, Robert E. Rubin, and Stephen Friedman had each, along with their management committees, at some point recommended that the firm go public. Corzine, who had been a member of each of those management committees, had supported the proposal each time and, without strongly advocating it now, supported it again.

By mid-morning on Saturday the leadership was done talking, and it was time to hear from the partnership. What followed was an impassioned de-

bate, but nothing like the emotional response that had poured out in 1986. As had been the case in 1986 and 1996 the floor was opened for discussion and more than 100 partners stated their point of view. A discussion began in which the arguments, many of them eloquently framed, emerged in sharp relief. Each speaker emphasised his or her support for the outcome, whatever it might be, and after each speaker was finished there was a round of applause from the floor.

Goldman Sachs would never let a client have the capital structure the firm itself had, some partners argued. A global busi-

ness hoping to expand to more than 20,000 employees cannot rest on a capital base that has no permanence. In a risky cyclical business it makes no sense to expose the resources of a handful of people to the whims of the world's capital markets. Those for and against felt that they had the issue of strategy on their side. The firm would not be able to make a large acquisition without stock, and without this ability it might be relegated to being a niche player, unable to compete for all of the top business.

The discussion, which was expected to end before lunch, went on until 2pm, with people going out to get food and returning to eat at their desks. After the long open session each partner was asked to fill out an anonymous written questionnaire for submission to the executive committee asking which ownership format they preferred and why.

On Saturday afternoon at about 2:30 the meeting adjourned and the partners left the conference centre, some driving back to the city, some to the airport. They did not know what would happen next; the fate of the firm had been left in the hands of six men of differing opinions. There had been the overwhelming sense that a majority of those present supported the idea of selling the firm, but Corzine and Paulson had made it clear that a supermajority would be needed. The executive committee clustered itself for the next 30 hours to review, reflect, and decide. They emerged from this meeting united, and announced to the world their belief that Goldman Sachs should sell a portion of the firm to the investing public. A detailed proposal would be drawn up for the partnership to vote on during the summer, and anticipating that there would be more than sufficient support from the partnership and host-able markets, the firm would have an initial public offering in the autumn of 1998.

Some were cynical about the firm's decision to go public. The same question asked two years earlier had yielded a resounding no. Partners talked endlessly about the value of partnership, but at the height of the greatest bull market in history they were willing to relinquish control of their firm. Others saw it differently, viewing the firm's continuing status as a private partnership as the result of inertia and nostalgia. A partnership, they believed, is an obsolete structure with which to operate a vastly expanding, global, risk-taking enterprise. The money, which they intended to spread to every employee of the firm, would only strengthen the organisation. Those who supported the change pointed out that far from being greedy, Goldman Sachs's leaders pushed for this move in 1996, when the firm would have sold

for not substantially more than its book value.

Some limited partners wondered about the wisdom of a public sale. Among those retired from the firm are partners who, when faced with the opportunity to sell as general partners, declined on the grounds that the partnership made the firm great. One limited partner went so far as to say: "A lot of us think there's a big danger here that you could kill a goose that, over the years, had laid an awful lot of golden eggs. Why in God's name would you want to tamper with something that has worked so well?" On the other side, many limited partners had voted to sell the firm in 1986, or supported the idea in 1996, but from the standpoint of personal gain their timing had not been perfect. Publicly, Friedman characterised the move as a way to husband the partnership capital. "We're in the longest stock market boom and the biggest one in history," he said with some prescience. "What you do is you store up your seed corn in the event of a bad period. One hears the rumour there used to be a time when stock markets went down."

On the day following the firm's announcement, its co-CEOs were on the defensive. A barrage of press speculation on how rich they and their partners would become had, they felt, missed the point of the sale. "Contrary to what you might read, we are not doing this because of the money. This is not about cashing out," Corzine asserted vehemently. "We intend to be the pre-eminent, independent global investment bank. We are going to be tough, and we will have the capital to compete." Paulson emphasised that the firm would not merge with a big bank or retail operation. The firm would use the capital provided by a public offering to do more of what it already did well, as a vehicle for growth.

Some of the post mortems mourned the passing of the last great Wall Street partnership, decrying the end of an era. Yet the importance of this transition, while historically interesting, is minimal to the industry. Did it matter that the industry leader was a private partnership able to conduct its business without focusing on the short term and the smooth flow of recurring earnings that stock markets applaud? Probably not. Goldman Sachs had slowly but surely been readying itself to become a public company. Now that the time for change had arrived, the transformation could be smoother and simpler than at any time in the firm's history. *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* is published by Little Brown, price £20

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## Trust fund

I HAD the impression that the merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust was taking ages. But it seems the deal is advancing too fast for Bankers Trust, which has to make extra payouts to staff who will not be retained in order to comply with EU law.

The requirement is that everyone involved must be interviewed to assess if there is a post for them in the merged firm. Unfortunately, there is

not enough time to see individually all 2,500 Bankers Trust staff in the City and the other 1,000-odd in Edinburgh, and anyway, it is already pretty clear who is not wanted on the voyage, so to speak.

Some dealers are on contracts that can be terminated at a month's notice, on either side — but only if they are "interviewed" first. The bank has checked with Brussels, and the way around this is to pay them a minimum of three months' money, whether or not they have jobs to go to elsewhere.

TRULY bizarre scenes at the Institute of Directors' annual convention. The organisers, in an effort to entertain proceedings, had crafted an interlude in which children acted out little scenes giving their views on the way business operates.

Enter Mr Sock. The impromptu star of the Albert Hall was perched on the shoulder of one of the young narrators to give prompts and a sort of mime version of what was going on. Mr Sock, however,



was just that, a hand in a sock, and was understandably limited to waves and other such simple gestures. None of which made a lot of sense or were much appreciated by an increasingly embarrassed audience. One senses that like Peter Mandelson, speaker at last year's convention, Mr Sock will not be asked back.

**Prize bore**

THOSE surveys of which brokers and merchant banks are most popular with the fund managers are becoming about as exciting and unpredictable

as the old Comintern elections. An audible groan went through the City audience at the Reuters/Tempest Consultants award ceremony yesterday, the third time that Merrill Lynch pipped Warburg Dillon Road to the top.

Even worse is the polarisation of analysts. Of the 1,300 identified by the survey, half received no votes at all from any fund manager. (Cue another groan, more heartfelt this time).

The top 10 per cent now account for more than two-fifths of all votes cast, and most of them work for the top three brokers, the two above plus BT Alex Brown. And those top three get two-fifths of all the commission earned by the City.

**No show**

THE first award at the Tempest/Reuters ceremony, for the fund manager most popular with finance directors, went to Donald Tosh at Legal & General. When he was called to pick up his award, there was an embarrassing silence.

"Donald Tosh? Is Donald Tosh here?" Nope. Tosh and the rest of the UK equities team at L&G chose yesterday for a morale-building "away day", at which they lock them-

selves away and think deep strategic thoughts. Or something like that.

SOME excuses you simply cannot make up. The West Anglia Great Northern rail line, from King's Cross to Peterborough, has an excellent performance record. However, under "events outside our control" the operator this month admitted to "Nude trespassers on the line."

**Mutual aid**

THE Yorkshire Building Society has dug the Bradford & Bingley out of a hole by agreeing to sponsor the Building Societies Association annual conference next month. The B&B had promised the money, but this week's surprise vote for conversion means that I doubt anyone from there will dare to show their face in Harrogate.

But the money was still due until the Yorkshire decided to step in. Derek Roberts, chairman, says the only problem is filling the extra table of ten at the BSA dinner. Don't be discouraged. Harrogate in May sounds fine to me.

MARTIN WALLER  
city.diary@the-times.co.uk

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## THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL CONVENTION

## Young warns of US trade war

## TRADE

A NEW trade crisis is looming between the UK and the US following the banana wars, Lord Young of Graffham, President of the Institute of Directors, said yesterday.

Lord Young told the 2,500 delegates at the IoD's annual convention that tempers would flare again between the two countries over Europe's decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment and increasing worries over GM foods. He said: "We might see this as a health risk but Washington will see this as a pure protection. We are turning Europe into a Fortress Europe for Food."

His comments follow the World Trade Organisation's backing for US penalties imposed on some European goods, such as bananas, candles and toiletries in retaliation for Europe's imports of Caribbean bananas.

Lord Young gave warning that trade was being ignored as world leaders tackled the crisis in the Balkans. "It would be ironic if there were to be an even bigger falling out of the partners of Nato that pro-



Lord Young of Graffham said tempers would flare over the decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment

duced the next crisis, the one that would overshadow even the tragedy of Kosovo."

Philip Lader, the US Ambassador to the UK, admitted that there were differences between

the two countries. Mr Lader, who was also at the IoD, said: "Given the magnitude of trade relations between the UK and the US it is not surprising that occasionally there will be dif-

ferences of opinion. But I hope that we can put disputes in the context of otherwise successful US/EU trade relations."

Mr Lader was last month summoned to see Stephen By-

ers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, over the banana issue. Mr Byers told him that the US's behaviour was completely unacceptable. Yesterday Mr Lader said that

after earnest negotiations, the disputes between the two countries could eventually be seen as "irritations". He said he was trying to "lower the decibel level" over the trade rows.

## New interest rates for Halifax customers.

The Halifax announces new interest rates for savings customers.

## UK rates

Effective from 1st May 1999.

Rates payable to Halifax non-resident and non-personal savers are advertised separately.

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/05/99		NET %
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	
<b>HALIFAX INSTANT SAVER</b>					
£500+	4.75	4.75	4.30	4.50	3.60
£1,000+	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.75	3.80
<b>HALIFAX PREMIUM SAVINGS DIRECT</b>					
£10,000+	5.75	5.75	5.50	5.50	4.40
£20,000+	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	4.28
£30,000+	5.40	5.40	5.20	5.20	4.16
£40,000+	5.30	5.30	5.10	5.10	4.08
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£100,000+	5.75	5.60	5.50	5.37	4.30
£200,000+	5.60	5.46	5.35	5.22	4.18
£300,000+	5.40	5.27	5.20	5.08	4.06
£400,000+	5.30	5.18	5.10	4.98	3.98
<b>90 DAY HOLD</b>					
£100,000+	5.20	5.20	5.00	5.00	4.00
£200,000+	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.70	3.76
£250,000+	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.35	3.48
£300,000+	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.15	3.32
£350,000+	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.85	2.76
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£100,000+	5.20	5.08	5.00	4.89	3.91
£200,000+	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.60	3.68
£250,000+	4.45	4.36	4.35	4.27	3.42
£300,000+	4.25	4.17	4.15	4.07	3.26
£350,000+	3.95	3.89	3.85	3.80	2.72
<b>SOLID GOLD</b>					
£25,000+	3.35	3.35	3.10	3.10	2.48
£30,000+	3.15	3.15	2.90	2.90	2.32
£35,000+	2.95	2.95	2.70	2.70	2.16
£40,000+	2.60	2.60	2.35	2.35	1.88
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£25,000+	3.35	3.30	3.10	3.06	2.45
£30,000+	3.15	3.11	2.90	2.87	2.29
£35,000+	2.95	2.91	2.70	2.67	2.14
£40,000+	2.60	2.57	2.35	2.33	1.86
<b>LINKED GOLD</b>					
£10,000+	2.20	2.20	2.10	2.10	1.68
£20,000+	2.10	2.10	2.00	2.00	1.60
£30,000+	2.00	2.00	1.90	1.90	1.52
£40,000+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>ASSET RESERVE CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>					
£10,000+	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.00	3.20
£20,000+	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.75	3.00
£30,000+	3.65	3.65	3.40	3.40	2.72
£40,000+	2.90	2.90	2.70	2.70	2.16
£50,000+	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.80
<b>Standard TESSA</b>					
£10,000+	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	4.20
<b>Young Saver ISA</b>					
£1,000+	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.04
<b>Child's First Savings Account</b>					
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.04
£20,000+	2.30	2.30	2.05	2.05	1.64
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£10,000+	2.80	2.76	2.55	2.52	2.02
£20,000+	2.30	2.28	2.05	2.03	1.62
<b>CLOSED ISSUES</b>					
Only available to new customers					
Special Reserve Bond	5.20	5.20	5.00	5.00	4.00
Halifax Extra One Year Maturity Bond	5.45	5.45	5.20	5.20	4.16

## Bonus Accounts

Rates shown do not include bonus, except where stated.

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/05/99		NET %
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	
<b>BONUS GOLD</b>					
£10,000+	4.50	4.50	4.25	4.25	3.40
£20,000+	4.15	4.15	4.00	4.00	3.20
£30,000+	3.85	3.85	3.65	3.65	2.92
£40,000+	3.75	3.75	3.55	3.55	2.84
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£10,000+	4.50	4.41	4.25	4.17	3.34
£20,000+	4.15	4.07	4.00	3.93	3.14
£30,000+	3.85	3.78	3.65	3.59	2.87
£40,000+	3.75	3.69	3.55	3.49	2.79
<b>Child's First Savings Account</b>					
£1,000+	2.80	2.80	2.70	2.70	2.16
<b>CLOSED ISSUES</b>					
Only available to new customers					
Halifax TESSA & Variable Rate	5.30	5.30	5.05	5.05	4.05
Halifax TESSA	5.20	5.20	5.05	5.05	4.05
Halifax TESSA	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	4.00

## Halifax ISA Saver

Please note current interest rates for Halifax ISA Saver will be held until 30th June 1999. New rates which will apply from 1st July 1999 are shown below.

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/07/99		NET %
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	
<b>ISA Saver</b>					
£3,000+	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25	-
£6,000+	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.75	-
£12,000+	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	-

POINTS TO NOTE: AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Interest will be paid net after the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form and made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. \*Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings customers who appear in our records as being under 21. If your savings account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21. \*Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA, Halifax TESSA 2, Bonus Gold and Monthly Saver bonuses, are available from any Halifax branch.



Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 29th April 1999

## Get an Internet grip, says Gates

## TECHNOLOGY

BILL GATES, chairman of Microsoft, yesterday said that chief executives must get to grips with the Internet and digital technology rather than delegate such skills amid concern that the UK is lagging the US in the use of technology.

Mr Gates told the Institute of Directors that the US was ahead of other nations in electronic commerce and in adapting to technology because many start-up businesses had embraced it at an early stage, making it integral to their activities. He said that the greater risk-taking attitude among US businesses also helped company leaders to take up the full potential of technology.

However, he said that British business, although behind

US business, was ahead of most countries in exploiting technology.

The Microsoft founder said it was "imperative" that businesses needed to obtain advice on how technology could be used in their sectors. Retailers' needs would be very different from those of banks.

Mr Gates said that companies needed to get involved in the management of technology. He said that the greater risk-taking attitude among US businesses also helped company leaders to take up the full potential of technology.

## Grade criticises negative attitudes

## LEISURE INDUSTRY

MICHAEL GRADE, chief executive of First Leisure, yesterday attacked negative attitudes to the leisure industry "at all levels from national Government downwards".

Praising the industry for employing 2.5 million people and accounting for 10 per cent of GDP, Mr Grade said: "So do we make a song and dance about our nightclubs, or bowl the rest of the world over with our skills at creating state-of-the-art tennis centres? Don't be silly - this is Britain!"

Mr Grade went on to criticise "archaic planning regulations". He complained: "The fate of the leisure industry is

in the hands of legislators and regulators who don't know it exists, don't know its potential and therefore cannot understand its problems."

He launched a general attack on Britain's lack of appetite for innovation and new ideas in business. He said it was a "deep malaise which has for too long infected the British psyche".

REPORTS by Christine Buckley

## Harnessing the airwaves

It is usually only large media companies or maverick music enthusiasts who undertake the complex and expensive process of setting up a radio station. Technology is making it increasingly affordable and straightforward, however, for all kinds of businesses to set up temporary radio stations as part of their marketing strategies.

Companies that have used so-called "limited licence radio" include TGI Friday's, the restaurant chain, Lakeside, the Essex shopping centre, and The Rugby Evening Telegraph. Limited licence radio has also been used to promote events such as the Machine Tools and Technology Association's annual conference at Birmingham's NEC.

The process of bidding for a temporary licence - which gives the holder the right to broadcast for up to 28 days - then getting hold of the equipment needed to set up a station, is becoming simpler thanks to a

handful of tiny high-tech media companies that specialise in organising broadcasts. One such is Show FM.

Show FM approaches the Radio Authority (RA) on behalf of its clients, and attempts to justify why they should be given licences. Although the cost of applying for a licence is tiny (a £200 application fee, plus about £80 a day), bidders must convince the RA that their proposals will be "broadband choice".

Of course, companies have to step up their marketing activities to boost awareness of their temporary radio stations, although Show FM argues that simply putting a huge mobile radio studio in a crowded town centre often does the job.

But how effective are tempo-

rary radio stations, and how much do they cost? Research carried out by Mirror Group, the national and regional newspaper company, suggests that limited licence stations can achieve market share of up to 31 per cent, within a ten to 12-mile broadcast radius.

The total cost to the client, meanwhile, is typically between £800 and £1,500 per day, according to Show FM.

Given this relatively modest cost (it can cost up to £70,000 for one full-page advert in a national newspaper) - and the fact that much more airspace is about to be made available by the RA when digital radio arrives - means limited licence radio stations look likely to become an increasingly important

part of many companies' marketing strategies.

WORKERS will soon be able to reproduce their office desktops on their laptop or home PCs, thanks to software from Sun Microsystems. The software, called i-Planet, creates a "virtual workspace" by allowing workers to access their office software applications, calendars, personal files and e-mail via the Internet.

LUCENT Technologies, the telecoms equipment manufacturer, has invented a device that can speed up the process of downloading files from the Internet, and ease Internet congestion. IPWorkX "detects and anticipates" Internet traffic volume, and is able to replicate Web pages without the viewer noticing anything but the lack of waiting time, Lucent says.

CHRIS AYRES

## Boards are abdicating to false Messiahs

For most businesses, a board of directors is an unimaginable luxury. If owner-managers aspire to more than the legal minimum, it is usually to get expensive professional advice for the price of an occasional lunch. As the best or most ambitious expand, all sorts of new issues of accountability to an ever-widening circle of shareholders and outsiders build up. A collectively responsible board becomes ever more vital.

Aside from stock market flotation, there are few clear staging posts on the way to the institutional status of the Prudential, ICI or Glaxo Wellcome. That is why the role of the board, who should be on it, relations of managers and non-executives, or the chairman and the chief executive are subject to endless dispute and covered in acres of flannel that still cannot hide the gulf between theory and reality.

On his retirement from the chair, Sir Ronald Hampel revived a 30-year ICI tradition of railing against ignorant critics. Fund managers now make boards "tick boxes" to show they are complying with silly rules laid down by committees headed in turn by Sir Adrian Cadbury, Sir Richard Greenbury and, yes, Sir Ronald himself.

Maybe the rules were bad. Perhaps they obscure other cultures that can be equally effective, though all must stand scrutiny.

The issue that dominated the original Cadbury committee was how to stop one person from having complete control of a top company and running it into the ground. Names such as British & Commonwealth, Polly Peck and Maxwell Communications head a long list.

One obvious solution was to separate the roles of chairman and chief executive. Yet many top groups, including the oil majors, Anglo-Dutch Unilever and the old ICI itself, had a strong management cadre from which one was chosen to be executive chairman for a limited term.

At the other extreme, some of our dozier financial institutions had, until recently, a non-executive board filled with top strategy-setting City types ruling a chief general manager who had emerged the hard way by decades of effort. Changes of culture and the transition from an entrepreneur are perilous. In top companies, it is agreed, the board should set strategy, and management implement it. But a bizarre Anglo-

Saxon fashion has developed to try to recreate venturing beginnings by turning chief executives into Messianic boss figures.

To make things worse, non-executive directors then evolve from supportive advisers into Pharisaic judges eager to find any hint that a Messiah might be false. This may be what put off heart-murmuring Dick O'Neill, who was due to take over from Martin Taylor as chief executive of Barclays.

Mr Taylor had been more strategist than manager. Combining both roles is usually too much, as the codes acknowledge. Yesterday Keith Henry was fired as chief executive of National Power, seemingly because his strategy was in a mess. Had the board been properly run, its chairman, Sir John Collins, should have been the first to go. He should resign pronto or return his pay.

The entrepreneur manager in the mould of Lord Weinstock is a rarity in the UK. Even he needed supportive chairmen and a close management group. He also left

succession problems. So did Mike Blackburn, larger than life architect of the now ailing Halifax. Here the board has risked a complete change of culture. A new chief executive from insurance is teamed with a chairman who was not on the board, though he has clubland connections.

Sir Dennis Stevenson, who will ably chair two FTSE 100 companies, is the latest incarnation of that patheos English invention, the star non-executive, trusted in the City to be put in charge of any company needing a financial makeover. The paucity of capable strategists is attested by the continuing prominence of ageing Young Turks of the 1960s Industrial Reorganisation Corporation and will be made worse by the demise of the London merchant bank.

They seem to achieve transitions more easily in collegiate Japan and more elegantly at shareholder-led BMW. If a figure like BP's Sir John Browne turns up, all the better. Big companies should be capable of being run by competent managers and chairmen with no pretensions to Messianic status.

Richard Handover, the unassuming second choice as chief executive at WH Smith, is a better model than Rand V Araskog, who ruled ITT as chairman, president and chief executive officer to prove he was in charge.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

## How

Keith Daniels on the...  
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# How far will tax tide rise?

Keith Daniels on the subtle forces that are exerting pressure for fiscal harmonisation throughout the EU

I recently addressed an audience of UK executives on the issues surrounding attempts to promote harmonisation of corporate taxation throughout Europe. To my surprise, although the topic was well understood, there was little appreciation of the degree to which UK tax law has already been influenced by the European dimension.

However, all those present sensed a hidden agenda to raise the burden of corporate taxes as high as practicable, and the focus moved to the rates of corporate tax charged throughout Europe. Rates, though, are not the key driver in this debate. The tax base to which they are applied is far more significant.

As Gordon Brown has shown on more than one occasion, the Government can raise additional tax revenue by careful manipulation of the tax base while cutting headline rates to attract favourable media coverage.

The top-down approach to European tax harmonisation, as tried in Germany, has seemed to run into the buffers and other issues have emerged to attract the media's attention. But is that the end of the matter? In my view, it is not.

We have ceded part of our

sovereignty to Europe already. Principles of European law can be used to challenge domestic legislation, and UK courts are becoming more confident in giving rulings based on these principles. Harmonisation of the tax system by judicial interpretation will take a very long time, but the process will grind on and common interpretations will result.

The much-criticised proposed directive on a common system of applying withholding tax to interest has caused a stir, particularly in London's eurobond market. The essence of the directive is to counter evasion of personal tax due on undisclosed deposits held outside a tax authority's jurisdiction.

However, as originally drafted, the directive would potentially cause the eurobond market to seek a new home outside the EU, and thousands of jobs would be at risk.

The national veto could be used to defeat the European Commission's proposals, but clearly it would be preferable if an accommodation could be reached that did not require use of such a blunt instrument. This attempt at harmonisation can be seen as an unwelcome visitor coming through the political front door. Yet there are other



Keith Daniels says court rulings may foster harmonisation

more subtle harmonisation steps occurring at the political back door.

A fundamental principle of international law is that one nation will not normally enforce collection of another's tax. Last year, the Commission recommended a directive amendment that, if adopted, might require the Inland Revenue prospectively to enforce collection of

say, Italian tax from a UK company operating in Italy — a big change in policy, with overtones in terms of harmonisation.

The most significant difficulty for advocates of harmonisation is measuring the tax base. Quite apart from differing fiscal codes, there is not, as yet, a uniform measure of accounting profits throughout the EU. International ac-

counting standards are gaining in credibility, but it may be many years before universal recognition is secured.

The information age will also have its effect. With modern electronic communications, does each company in a group require its own support services? Shared service centres are becoming a reality, with one company in a worldwide group providing, say, the accounts function to all group members. Differences between jurisdictions are thereby highlighted, which may influence investment decisions.

Tax competition, too, will play a part. Globally mobile investment will be drawn to jurisdictions with attractive fiscal regimes. Losers will complain of unfair competition, but eventually will play the same game or face damaging economic consequences.

A common currency may be a precursor to further political, social and economic integration in Europe. The Big Bang approach to tax harmonisation is unlikely ever to succeed, but there are other agents. Court rulings, international accounting harmonisation and integration of big multinationals will all influence the pace and direction of change.

Just as an incoming tide, harmonisation will eventually reach a high water mark.

Keith Daniels is President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and a KPMG partner

## Judgment call on internal controls

There is but one problem with the Turnbull report. The appliance of judgment is considered old hat. This is unfortunate because the report depends, quite rightly, on the directors of listed companies reaching conclusions based on judgment and then communicating them to shareholders.

The whole area of internal controls has been fraught for the same reasons. While other areas of corporate governance have been sorted out so that a combined code now exists and is in force, the business of internal controls has had a convoluted journey.

It has gone through many permutations since it was advocated by the original Cadbury code. But now it has come home in a good and challenging form. Once it was suggested that only financial internal controls should be subject to corporate governance guidance. Now it has been widened to include everything in the burgeoning internal controls basket.

So directors will now have to have a review system embedded within the company enabling them to reach a view on everything from risk management and fraud to health and safety and environmental factors.

The report, named after its chairman, Nigel Turnbull, the Rank Group's finance director, states that "a company's system has as its principal aim the management of risks that are significant to the fulfilment of its business objectives with a view to safeguarding the company's assets and enhancing over time the value of shareholders' investment". In short, this stuff deals with the heart of a company. If this goes wrong then the company goes down. "Internal control," Turnbull will tell you, "takes governance right into the heart of business."

This may not go down well with company directors. Nor will Turnbull's view that the result of the processes that his report unleashes "forces the board of directors to understand the business".

To an outsider this may seem odd. What are directors doing there if they do not understand the business?

What Turnbull is getting at is that many directors take a similar view to Sir Ronald Hampel of ICI when he ran the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance. Underlying it is the idea that companies should be prosperous and all this corporate governance stuff just gets in the way. Turnbull knows that directors ought to understand the internal controls, but they tend to just assume that these things happen.

With the new guidance in place, this com-

placency will no longer be possible. The system will have to be embedded in the company. Boards of directors will have stringent responsibilities to assess the effectiveness of those systems and ensure that all weaknesses are being remedied.

They will have to monitor changes in the system and then disclose their findings in the annual report. There they will have to report that they have reviewed the system's effectiveness and disclose any material failings and what they have done, or intend doing, about them.

The intention is to avoid "boilerplate" corporate governance statements where a verbal formula clouds any understanding. Roger Davis, the head of professional affairs at PricewaterhouseCoopers, was the deputy chairman of the Turnbull committee. He is an enthusiast for companies explaining clearly: "If you pick up ICI's report, you find it is all boilerplate," he said. "The shareholders cannot make anything of it."

The report is a breakthrough. But the enthusiasm for judgment being exercised and its results being reported goes against the grain of the corporate world.

Company directors, and their auditors, both internal and external, have come to hate the idea of judgment these days. Partly, it is the problem of litigation. If you exercise judgment and things go wrong, then the lawyers will be set upon you.

This is not just typical of one of the largest firms put it to me last week, society in general is now much more intolerant of failure. People come under greater fire for failure. So they prefer to follow rules they can then either cite or blame, depending on the results of their actions. And that makes them safer should litigation follow.

Once upon a time, accountants used their judgment first and then, only secondly, checked to see if the chosen solution was in line with the existing rules. Now the process tends to be the other way round.

This makes the place of the Turnbull report a difficult one. The hope is that companies will see greater benefit in explaining things to stakeholders and increasing the worth and stability of their business by so doing.

If everyone instead pulls down the shutters and goes off to consult the lawyers then businesses are hardly likely to retain their dynamism. It is time for arguments on the issue of how judgment gives you a competitive edge.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Running just to stand still

ASK most senior people in the Big Five accountancy firms what worries them most and they tend to respond: "Recruiting more good people to keep growth running at high levels."

Certainly, the message seems to have hit home at KPMG. It has a poster campaign running that shows an athlete bursting through the winning tape in a heady mix of achievement and triumph. The message reads: "Know how it feels" and gives you the

telephone number of KPMG Consulting.

Commuters walking across London Bridge into the City have been puzzled that one of these massive posters has been stuck on the roof of a barge moored beside the bank of the Thames below.

This may seem to be an odd place to have a poster. Not so. It is placed directly opposite the glass walls that constitute London Bridge City, home of the consulting business of rival firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Bonding

HISTORY was made at the Scots ICA annual meeting. For the first time, an accountancy body has voted to allow non-accountants, lay people, on its council. People were casting around as to who might qualify for the two places that will be set aside for less numerate but interested people.

Representatives of consumers' bodies and the like were suggested. But the institute really doesn't have to look that far. Sean Connery is rum-

thumping his way around the hills and glens at the moment with a view to doing worrying things with a claymore to opposing politicians. The actor would certainly shake up a council meeting.

### Image problem

ACCOUNTANTS are famously those people who never own up to their real occupation at parties. But it may all be changing. There is another business which, by all accounts, reckons that its image

has plummeted as low as it can go. And that is information technology.

According to a report in *Micromagazine*, the chief executive of Cap Gemini in the UK has taken to the conference platform to thunder that "this industry is not just made up of techies and nerds but intelligent and educated people".

And Alan Stevens, chief executive of EDS in the UK, took the doom-laden task to its logical conclusion. "We have lost the battle with accountancy," he said. "That has a much better image than we do."

ROBERT BRUCE

## Court of Appeal

### Adverse possession claim fails

**Earnshaw and Others v Hartley**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Buxton and Sir Christopher Staughton [Judgment March 31]

A beneficiary of an unadministered estate who was in possession of land comprised in that estate for a period exceeding 12 years could not maintain a claim to adverse possession of the land for the purposes of section 30 of the Limitation Act 1980. Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to that Act applied to prevent a right of action from being treated as accruing during that time.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mrs Josephine Hartley, from the judgment on a preliminary issue in favour of the plaintiffs, Mrs Ann Earnshaw, Mrs Marion Robinson and Mrs Lucy Fielden, by Judge Barry sitting in Halifax County Court on January 11, 1999, that had the effect of defeating the defendant's claim to title by adverse possession to Heigh Top Farm, Cornholme, Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act provides: "Where any settled land or any land held on trust for sale is in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale (not being a person solely or absolutely entitled to the land or the proceeds), no right of action to recover the land shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as accruing during that possession to any person... entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale."

Mr Paul Creaner for Mrs Hart-

ley; Mr Barry Coulter for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the property had been acquired in 1948 by William Hyde Hartley who was married to Mary Hartley. They had a son and three daughters. Mr Hartley died intestate in 1965, his widow becoming the sole legal and beneficial owner of the farm. Thereafter the son, not then married, lived with his mother at the farm until her death in 1983. She also died intestate.

No grant of letters of administration to her estate was obtained at that stage. Thus, by virtue of section 9 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 her real and personal estate, including the farm, vested in the President of the Family Division until administration.

After Mary Hartley's death the son continued to live at the farm on his own. For present purposes it was to be assumed that he was in possession of it. In October 1995 the son married the defendant and made a will appointing her sole executrix and devising his estate to her absolutely. The son died in November 1998.

Thereafter the three daughters, the plaintiffs, sought the sale of the farm, maintaining that they were each entitled to a quarter of the net proceeds. The defendant maintained that the son and she successively had been in adverse possession of the farm since Mary Hartley's death in 1983, a period of more than 12 years, and that she, by succession and in her own right, had acquired a possessory title to it.

The daughters obtained a grant of letters of administration to their mother's estate and commenced the action seeking, inter

alia, an order for the sale of the farm.

The judge, hearing the issue of adverse possession as a preliminary issue, upheld the plaintiffs' case that the defendant's claim to adverse possession was on any footing defeated by paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act.

Mr Coulter argued that at all material times the farm was "in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or to the proceeds of sale", namely the son, and the plaintiffs were other persons "entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale".

Mr Creaner's contrary argument was based on a literal interpretation of paragraph 9. He pointed out, correctly, that it was expressed to apply to settled land, and that it was not held on trust for sale during that period. It was presumptively so held and it would be artificial for limitation purposes to distinguish between the state of affairs existing before and after the grant of administration.

It would be equally artificial for limitation purposes to hold that after the grant had caused the trust for sale, under section 33 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 to take effect, the son and the daughters did not have beneficial interests in the land.

As Mr Justice Buxton had said in *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* (at 282) a person absolutely entitled to a share of an unadministered estate did have an interest of a kind in the assets comprised in it. Such an interest was a sufficient interest for the purposes of paragraph 9.

Lord Justice Buxton gave a concurring judgment and Sir Christopher Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Waddington & Son, Burnley; Ursula Bagnall & Co, Totnes.

pressed in substantially the same terms, was in section 7(5) of the Limitation Act 1939.

The broad effect of those provisions would be said to have been the reintroduction of the doctrine of non-adverse possession among beneficial co-owners of land, allowance being made for the trust for sale which the Law of Property Act 1925 had made an inevitable feature of such ownership. Against that background it would be wrong to give paragraph 9 the literal interpretation which Mr Creaner put on it.

Although it was no doubt correct to say that the President of the Family Division, while the farm was vested in him, was not a trustee of it and that it was not held on trust for sale during that period, it was presumptively so held and it would be artificial for limitation purposes to distinguish between the state of affairs existing before and after the grant of administration.

It would be equally artificial for limitation purposes to hold that after the grant had caused the trust for sale, under section 33 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 to take effect, the son and the daughters did not have beneficial interests in the land.

As Mr Justice Buxton had said in *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* (at 282) a person absolutely entitled to a share of an unadministered estate did have an interest of a kind in the assets comprised in it. Such an interest was a sufficient interest for the purposes of paragraph 9.

Lord Justice Buxton gave a concurring judgment and Sir Christopher Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Waddington & Son, Burnley; Ursula Bagnall & Co, Totnes.

**Regina v Rolloc Screw and Rivet Co Ltd and Others**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Joffe and Mr Justice Auld [Judgment March 26]

Where a company and its directors were convicted of offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 the court should ensure that the financial penalties imposed were appropriate to mark the gravity of the case.

Although in a small company the directors might also be the shareholders so that any double punishment should be avoided, the penalties fixed should make clear that directors had a personal responsibility which could not be shuffed off to the company.

In considering the period over which a financial penalty might be ordered to be payable, the court could properly fix a longer period in the case of a corporate defendant than in the case of an individual defendant.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, sitting at Birmingham, so held when

(i) hearing an appeal against sentences by Rolloc Screw and Rivet Co Ltd following its pleas of guilty to offences under section 2(1) and 3(1) of the 1974 Act in respect of a serious incident of asbestos contamination in 1997 and

(ii) hearing applications for leave to appeal against sentences by the company's directors, Bernard Rose and Philip Rose, who had pleaded guilty to the same offences.

The company was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay £30,000 costs. Judge Harris, QC, directed that £5,000 of the total be paid within the first 12 months, and the balance at the rate of £1,000 a month. The total period for payment, in the absence of accelerated payment, was six years and five months.

Mr Bernard Rose was fined £6,000, to be paid at £1,000 a month and was ordered to pay £2,000 costs. Mr Philip Rose was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs.

The Court of Appeal refused their applications but reduced the sum payable by way of costs to £20,000 by the company.

Mr Kevin Hegarty for the company and the directors; Mr Mark Eades for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, referred to and gave unqualified support to the observations of Mr Justice Scott Baker in *R v F Howe & Sons (Engineers) Ltd* (The Times November 27, 1998; [1998] 2 All ER 294, 253 to 255) which amounted to a clear and correct statement of the principles which should guide the court in the present kind of case.

His Lordship turned to the question, raised squarely by the present appeal, of the period over which a fine might properly be ordered to be payable.

Mr Hegarty had submitted that the length contemplated here was well beyond the period which the court should sanction and that there was no distinction to be drawn for that purpose between a personal and a corporate defendant.

His Lordship said that it was plain from *R v Olliver* (1989) 11 Cr App R (S) 10, 15 per Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, that the court there was at pains to avoid stipulating any period which should not be exceeded in a proper case.

Nonetheless with a personal defendant, with a fine hanging over him, there were arguments for keeping the period of that continuing punishment within bounds. Those arguments were much weaker, if indeed they applied at all, when one was considering a corporate defendant.

There was not the same sense of anxiety as was liable to afflict an individual, and it was acceptable on proper facts and in appropriate circumstances for a fine to be payable by a company over a substantially longer period than might be appropriate in the case of an individual.

His Lordship would, however, accept Mr Hegarty's further submission, that the court should avoid a risk of overlap. In a small company the directors were likely to be the shareholders and therefore the main losers if a severe sanction was imposed on the company. The court had to be alert to ensure that it was not in effect imposing double punishment.

On the other hand, it was important in many cases that fines should be imposed which made it quite clear that there was a personal responsibility on directors and that they could not simply shuffle off their responsibilities to the corporation of which they were directors.

The proper approach to a case of the present kind in principle was to pose two questions: 1 What financial penalty did the offence merit? 2 What financial penalty could a defendant, whether corporate or personal, reasonably be ordered to meet?

That second question inevitably raised the question of time.

Turning to the instant case the court concluded on the first question that the total penalty imposed on the company and the directors of £50,000, split as to £40,000 payable by the company and £10,000 by the directors, was, in the circumstances, appropriate recognition of the gravity of the offending.

On the second question, the company had submitted that its means were such that together with the costs order the total sum of £70,000 payable was grossly excessive and not an amount it could meet.

The court had been supplied with a quantity of accounting material, not all before the judge, which caused it to reconsider the time for payment.

As already indicated, a longer period for payment was acceptable in the case of a company than

would often be acceptable in that of an individual.

Also, it was not necessarily a more severe course to order a larger sum over a longer period than a smaller sum over a shorter period, since the former course might well give a company a greater opportunity to control its cash flow and survive difficult trading conditions.

If, despite a long period, the company had the means or chose to pay sooner than it needed, that was

a course open to it. In the result, the total period for payment was excessive and with some hesitation the court would reduce it; not by reducing the fine, but by reducing to some extent the sum of costs to be paid, from £30,000 to £20,000, thus shortening the overall period of payment from six years and five months to five years and seven months.

Solicitors: Charles Russell; Mr Stephen Swan, Southwark.



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## Appeal court must give reasons

**Regina v Snaresbrook Crown Court, Ex parte Input Management Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Blofield [Judgment March 4]

On an appeal from a magistrates' court, the crown court was obliged to provide proper reasons for its decision at the time of the decision or immediately after it, so that a defendant could know the reasons as soon as reasonably possible, see the nature of the criminality found to exist and properly to consider whether to appeal.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an application by Input Management Ltd for judicial review of the decision of Snaresbrook Crown Court (Judge Kalkuda and Justices) on June 15, 1998 not to provide Input with proper reasons for their decision to reject its appeal against convictions Before Redbridge Justices on November 4, 1997.

Input was convicted under section 33(a) and (c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 of:

(i) failing to discharge its duty under section 30(a) as an employer to ensure so far as reasonably practicable that persons outside its employment were not exposed to health and safety risks and (ii) failing to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of health and safety risks to persons outside its employment under section 30(a) and (b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (SI 1992 No 2051).

Mr Kevin De Hoon for the applicant; Mr David Travers for Redbridge London Borough Council; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said the applicant company engaged a contractor to install a new mirror ball at its nightclub. Following faulty installation, the ball fell, injuring two people and the applicant was convicted.

On appeal to the crown court the applicant argued that because it had done all that was reasonably practicable to ensure safe installation by employing reputable con-

tractors, it had complied with its duty under section 30(a) of the 1974 Act and had not breached its duty under the 1992 Regulations.

At the end of the hearing, the judge and justices retired and upon return the judge announced that the court found the allegations proved, was not proposing to give reasons, and that the sentence would be increased to a fine substantially greater than that given to the contractor.

Following requests by the applicant for reasons for the decision to dismiss the appeal and increase the fine, the judge merely said that the applicant ought to have checked that the ball was working properly. No proper reasons were given for the disparity of sentence that arose as a result between the contractor and the applicant, who could have been considered less culpable.

After leave to move for judicial review was granted, the judge sent a note signed by himself and prepared some time after the appeal to the Divisional Court. His Lordship said that the court could not have

regard to the note as it was not supported by affidavit nor signed by the other justices.

Even if it could, the applicant ought to have been provided with proper reasons at the time of the decision or immediately afterwards. His Lordship, adopting the reasoning of the court in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Nelson* (unreported, May 11, 1994), said that the applicant ought to have known as soon as the judge was asked to give reasons that the court would be asked to consider whether to apply for a case to be stated.

The crown court failed to fulfill its obligation to give reasons within a reasonable time and what was done subsequently was not a satisfactory substitute. The case would be remitted to a differently constituted crown court.

Solicitors: Downs, Dorking; Mr Eddie Davie, Redbridge.

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LAWRENCE KERN UNIT TRUST INVEST				NEW JERSEY INVESTORS LTD	
OTD AND ABOVE				0001	
Bridge Income				Income (%)	
42.374	450.739	2.32	3.52	1994	1710 100
42.375	105.601	0.20	0.53	1991-20	1373 500
42.376	195.264	0.20	0.53		2.70
42.377	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.378	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.379	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.380	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.381	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.382	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.383	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.384	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.385	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.386	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.387	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.388	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.389	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.390	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.391	195.264	0.20	0.53		
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42.400	195.264	0.20	0.53		
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42.406	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.407	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.408	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.409	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.410	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.411	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.412	195.264	0.20	0.53		
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42.414	195.264	0.20	0.53		
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42.431	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.432	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.433	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.434	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.435	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.436	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.437	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.438	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.439	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.440	195.264	0.20	0.53		
42.44					

UK Income %	464.50	547.05	+ 0.60	2.98
UK Income Acc #	509.70	540.07	+ 0.50	2.58
UK Sav Cash	370.40	356.10	+ 1.20	1.40
UK Gen Cons	370.40	370.15	+ 0.50	
W Amer Cash	283.20	374.60	+ 0.50	
Pacific Growth	1.80	6.44	+ 0.78	0.60
Finl Mkts Gwth	1.80	6.33	+ 0.82	0.60

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
BSE 353482				
High Income %	113.00	113.50	+ 0.30	5.62
High Income #	225.00	240.00	+ 0.20 <td>1.13</td>	1.13
Wldwld Acc #	214.70	254.40	+ 0.20 <td>1.12</td>	1.12

WHEEL FORD	73.94	73.86	+ 0.08
<b>BANKINDOORSHORE FINANCIAL LTD</b>			
WT24 300 000			
Marginal Tot	60 40	94 70	. . 3 13
<b>LEGAL &amp; GENERAL (UK INSUR) LTD</b>			
Equities: 01222 446412 Dividends: 01222 683614			
Equity Def @	167.70	167.70	+ 0.50 1 19
Acc Accum @	1952.00	1952.00	+ 2.00 1 19
Growth@			
<b>MARTIN CURRIE ONYX TRUSTS LTD</b>			
Vital Global Inc			104 70
Credit Portfolio			93.86
May Global Resc			01.75
US Global Gld			92.92
Hartley Equity Inc			65.23
Hartley Growth			184.40

Asset Class	Value	Weight	Return	Volatility	Correlation	Sharpe Ratio	Information Ratio
US Stocks	73.50	73.50	-0.19	3.61			
Intl Stocks	72.10	72.10	-0.40	-			
North America	407.20	407.20	-0.19	3.61			
Global Growth	91.59	91.59	-1.20	0.85			
Pacific Growth	35.41	35.41	-0.41	1.65			
UK Stocks	120.69	120.69	+0.10	1.21			
UK Recovery	169.50	169.50	+0.10	0.56			
Emerging Mkts	70.27	70.27	-0.36	0.30			
Intl Growth	189.70	179.51	-0.60	0.02			
US Growth	113.70	162.40	-0.69	0.62			
UK Growth	71.52	18.80	-0.35	0.17			
Asia Pacific	29.56	1.80	-0.35	0.11			
Growth Portfolio	84.07	25.06	-0.20	0.54			
Equity	426.70						
-Accum	937.70						
Growth	292.00						
Income	335.70						
Intl Equity	404.00						
-Accum	454.30						

01432 371 880	Dealing: 01432 371 823			
Growth	88.10	1.00	+ 0.43	1.11
Income	94.81	191.60	+ 0.20	2.91
Fx East	34.47	35.85	+ 0.38	0.68
Global	218.10	231.40	+ 0.40	
North America	170.10	125.70	+ 0.20	0.38

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0960 435322				
America	547.05	577.30	+ 1.80	
Asia-Pacific	506.70	617.40	+ 1.60	

01481 471 990			
Int Growth Inc			502.40
-de- Account			1004.52
Income			726.05
World Recovery			670.50
Asia Growth Inc			498.30

LLPAYS TSB UNIT TRUSTS				-div- Accoun -				-div- Accoun			
04/05 30/02/2004				168.20	168.20		5.14	-div- Accoun			192.85
American	642.35	679.73	- 3.77 ...	108.30	116.70	- 0.20	2.21	-div- Income #			186.40
	707.57	748.69	- 3.05	-div- Accoun	110.10	110.40	- 0.10	0.21	JPJ Inc Inc		193.00
European	641.38	681.76	- 1.51	European Equity	541.06	573.00	-4.60	0.10	JPJ Bond		195.00
Global	640.23	681.76	- 1.51	-div- Accoun	182.00	626.19	- 5.00	0.10	JPJ Bond		73.12
-div- Accoun	1691.68	1703.82	- 3.04	Global Bond	139.70	144.69	- 5.00	3.60	JPJ Div Growth		226.25
								Aspen St. Mkt Inc		27.08	

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# Equities trade in narrow limits

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1999			Price		1999	
High	Low	Company	(a)	+/-	%	P
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
615/	446	Allied Dmcsq	509+	-	3/	6.6 12
363	279	Robur (H)	364	..	..	4.1 16
340	181	Bern Steuart	181	..	..	..
742	625	Clayport	710	-	8/	2.8 17
730	525	Chloroquine A	525	-	5	2.7 14
266	227	Hopwood Dist	244	..	..	3.8 17

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## BANKS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## BUILDING MATERIALS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## CHEMICALS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## CONSTRUCTION

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## DISTRIBUTORS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## ELECTRICITY

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## ENGINEERING

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## INSURANCE

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## LEISURE &amp; HOTELS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## MINING

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## PROPERTY

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## TRANSPORT

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## WATER

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## RETAILERS, FOOD

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## RETAILERS, GENERAL

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## PHARMACEUTICALS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## SHORTS (under 5 years)

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## LONGS (over 15 years)

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## UNDATED

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at:

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## SUPPORT SERVICES

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High

## SUPPORT SERVICES

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	1999	Low	Company	Price	High
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**THEATRE**  
Blanchett  
excels in night  
of Plenty  
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# THE TIMES ARTS

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The man who  
makes the  
world turn  
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**NEW MOVIES:** James Christopher sees future shock played for laughs in the amiably flesh-crawling *eXistenZ*

## Cronenberg's tricks of the light

David Cronenberg has never let good taste sabotage his futuristic movies. In his latest creation, *eXistenZ*, he shows no signs of relenting. As in his previous film, *Crash*, there are bits that make you wince. But here the horror is infinitely more playful and as fabulously baroque as anything he's dreamt up before. How much of *eXistenZ* is knowing comedy, and how much of it is just inadvertently corny, is the most enjoyable puzzle of this intriguing film.

The near future is crawling with mutant swamp life from poisoned rivers. Society is hooked on virtual-reality computer games. The corporations that make them are the multi-billion-dollar powerbrokers. The new superstars are the game designers. And the ultimate nerd is Jennifer Jason Leigh's grungy, reclusive Allegra Geller, the creator of *eXistenZ*, a game that taps so deeply into its users' fears and desires that it blurs the boundaries between reality and escapism. The rules of the game, indeed its very point, are defined by the players themselves: their morals, their principles, their psychological ticks. It's virtual existentialism.

When anti-game fanatics attempt to assassinate Leigh she is forced to flee in the company of Jude Law's marketing trainee, who has never played a computer game in his life. Leigh needs Law to enter the game with her to assess the damage done to her priceless computer pod, a sort of organic vibrating jelly. The problem is that the pod plugs straight into the nervous system via an umbilical cord and a socket in the spinal column. Getting one of these fitted to the less than enthusiastic Law—"I have this phobia about having my body penetrated"—is one of the funniest and squelchiest moments in the film. As in his last original script, *VideoDrome* (1982), Cronenberg is mesmerised by the thought of fusing flesh and machine.

But the beauty of *eXistenZ* is that it is disturbingly close to reality. The game transports Law and Leigh to a sort of urban warehouse land where they are pursued by corporate spies and a bloodthirsty, extremist group of "realists" out to collect the \$5 million bounty on Leigh's head. The game engenders psychosis, and any



"Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist", but you can't hold Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh responsible for the ultimate failure of *eXistenZ*

number of eye-popping twists. Law and Leigh become labourers on a production line where grubby workers hack up mutant frogs for biotech parts, and take their lunch breaks in a ghoulish Chinese restaurant. Here Law, after chopping his way through the equivalent of *Naked Lunch*, uses the gristle and bone to construct a gun which he uses to murder the waiter with a well-aimed human molar. Ian Holm's crackpot German inventor and William Dalke's gas station mechanic, flashing his familiar manic toothy grin, pop up like arcade cameos.

The real problem lies in identifying with the central characters, neither of whom

plugged into my nervous system. The moody, sexy Leigh is convincingly obsessive: Law is endearingly bemused. But in a film where absolutely everything is not as it seems, it is impossible to get involved. There are nags and teases that lurch away long after the final credits have rolled, but Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist.

Neil Jordan's paranormal thriller, *In Dreams*, also plays with levels of reality. I have never seen a more stunning opening. In which police divers search for the victims of a serial killer in a town that lies like a grave at the bottom of a lake. But, despite feeding on a parent's worst nightmare

—the murder of an only child—Bruce Robinson's script fails to live up to this masterly visual suspense. Annette Bening plays a housewife whose dreams of orchards and frightened children turn out to be premonitions of a serial killer's intentions. But the fact that no one, including her husband (Aidan Quinn), believes her is the film's real nightmare. Her psychiatrist, Stephen Rea, sees madness where he should see clairvoyance. The camera charts Bening's disintegration with the sick predatory feel of a stalker. It is an extraordinary performance by Bening, who has to lose her mind in the killer's imagination to prove her sanity. You can see the hysteria in her eyes and hear the fear plucking at her throat as her dreams are besieged by the killer's personality.

You can also see exactly what beguiled Jordan. Dream logic is one of the most powerful tools of suspense. Unfortunately it doesn't always chime with the prosaic business of a Hollywood plot. The moment Bening's fears are made flesh—the murder, in fact, that

Robert Downey Jr's madman steps into frame—is the moment Jordan's bubble of suspense is popped. The magic evaporates. The horror turns to schlock. What's hinted at but never explored is why Bening should be the conduit for Downey's diseased thoughts. Therein lies the better film.

Val Kilmer stars as a blind masseur in the first of the week's three sticky, slow-burning romances. At *First Sight*, based on a true case documented by Dr Oliver Sacks, is potentially the most interesting. Having fallen in love with a New York architect, Mira Sorvino, Kilmer is persuaded to undergo an operation that might restore the sight he lost as a toddler. The suspense is pinned to the statistic that only 20 such successful reversals have taken place over the past 200 years.

As the title implies, it is a success. But, rather than leaping about with delight, Kilmer is traumatised. Images slew across his sightlines, sickeningly out of focus. His blind assumptions about the world are

shattered as he crashes into shop windows, looks blankly at faces and freaks out at parties. It's a powerful performance, full of penitence and frustration. Understandably, the director, Irwin Winkler, is far keener on exploring Kilmer's dislocation than massaging the tedious love interest. Needless to say, so is Kilmer. Sorvino's thankless task is to pick up the pieces and act confused. The result is a romance that is horribly lopsided and underhand, of more interest to medical students than lovers.

Somewhat I can't see Germaine Greer or Andrea Dworkin breaking into a muck sweat over Marshall Herskovitz's feminist romp set in 16th-century Venice. The *Honest Courtesan* is such a frothy package it dissolves almost as soon as it reaches the screen.

Frustrated in her love for Rufus Sewell's roaring aristocrat, Catherine McCormack's low-born poet sets about carving her glamorous emancipation in Italy's glossiest brothel, the Venetian Court. Under the expert tutelage of her mother (Jacqueline Bisset), McCormack's lusty virgin is primed and briefed like James Bond. "Courtesans are the most educated women in the world," instructs the unflappable Bisset. "They can seduce a man at 20 paces with their mind." Hmm. Her great cleavage helps.

Having learnt how to devour bananas as if they were the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate bar in the world, McCor-

mack beds a procession of drooling senators and fat bishops, and even, spansks the French King into submission. To spice up the grand romance, Sewell is sent packing to Cyprus to fight a war, the Plague promptly arrives and kills 56,000 people, and the Inquisition bows into town. There's clearly something here for everyone.

Paul Morrison's *Solomon & Gaenor* is a sharp antidote to the above frippery. In a Welsh mining town, circa 1911, an illicit romance is meticulously batched between a young Jewish immigrant (Joan Gruffudd) and prim local girl (Nia Roberts). They are both poor as pennies. He sells cloth for his stern parents. She fills tin baths for her Protestant coalmining father and her brutish brother, the wonderfully named Crad (Mark Lewis Jones). Snatched kisses lead to passion in the hayloft. But Solomon's refusal to reveal his Jewish identity—he calls himself Sam and won't introduce Roberts to his parents—puts him in a morally intolerable position. The stakes couldn't be higher, what with strikes, pit closures and the suspicious

**eXistenZ**  
Warner Village  
West End, 15, 92 mins  
Futuristic horror from David Cronenberg

**In Dreams**  
Empire, 18, 100 mins  
Neil Jordan's nightmare thriller

**At First Sight**  
Plaza, 12, 129 mins  
Val Kilmer as blind beefcake

**The Honest Courtesan**  
Virgin Haymarket  
15, 111 mins  
Soppy Venetian romance

**Solomon & Gaenor**  
Screen-on-the-Hill  
15, 104 mins  
Love among the coalmines

**The Waterboy**  
Odeon West End  
12, 90 mins  
College freak makes good

**Knock Off**  
Virgin Trocadero  
18, 91 mins  
Rip-off

Crad nursing fists the size of jack-hammers. The dung inevitably hits the fan. There are humiliations, batterings, heartache and raging blizzards to be negotiated. Thomas Hardy would be hard-pushed to pin a more angst-ridden melodrama. But, despite the final excesses, the romance holds firm around an enchanting performance by Roberts's mousey temptress, whose emotions ring as true as her grim surroundings.

There is nothing enchanting about Frank Coraci's film. The Waterboy, a college football team from "Rebelsville, Louisiana," ends a losing streak when the simple-minded weed who dishes out the water turns into a nuclear-charged demolition man. Adam Sandler plays the 31-year-old incompetent routinely humiliated by cross-eyed team-mates. Even respectable old ladies could be forgiven for giving him a casual kicking. Fuelled by grudges and bent out of shape by his mother (Kathy Bates, reprising for the umpteenth time all the perverted charms of her *Misery* character), Sandler becomes the hero of the Southern misfits.

Despite the nonsense it is surprisingly full of gut laughs. Henry Winkler is wonderful as the depressed coach, terminally on the point of tears, but Sandler has neither the class nor wit to clone Tom Hanks's similarly challenged ingenue in *Forrest Gump*.

Even hardcore Van Damme fans will wince at his latest stunt fest. *Knock Off* is a numbing medley of kung fu fights, sadistic Russians and double-dealing with CIA agents. Jackie Chan has made an artform out of this kind of film. Van Damme makes a pig's ear out of it.

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## Hurt's so good

WHEN actresses reach a certain age, they often complain that the good parts are not being written for them any more. If only they were vocalists, they could turn to the bitter-sweet creations of Amanda McBroom.

Not that the West Coast singer-songwriter's work can be defined purely by age or gender. What she captures so adroitly is the wishfulness of dreams deferred, ambitions unfulfilled, marriages sinking into what her song *Dance* terms "comfortable despair". Songs as haunting and ethereal as *Ship in a Bottle* pin down stray emotions as precisely as an Anne Tyler novel.

This might sound like an excuse to wallow in Californian self-pity. It is certainly true that McBroom's heart-on-sleeve style can come as a shock to the British system. But she balances the pathos and anguish with humour.

Standards old and new are carefully filtered into the mix. Segues abound, and McBroom and her flamboyant accompanist Joel Silberman self-consciously stitched together the verse of *Bewitched*, *Bothered and Bewildered* and the refrain of *My Funny Valentine*. She and the worldly Lorenz Hart made a good combination nonetheless.

Jacques Brel provides another source of inspiration, notably in the audacious and de-

mented waltz that is *Carousel*. Inexorably gathering speed, until the words teeter on the edge of gibberish, the song brought all of McBroom's acting skills to bear.

A more sedate waltz tempo underpins *Erol Flynn*, the poignant vignette inspired by her father, the Hollywood actor David Bruce. Barbara Cook has made this song her own: McBroom stole it back. Where most cabaret singers veer towards the conversational, she favours a more theatrical stance, abruptly leaping into the upper register to add emphasis.

Earlier, she had signalled another telling change of gear when she dipped into her high school past to treat Carole King's *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* as a glowing ballad stripped of artifice. Silberman, who has just guided classical pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet through an album of Ellington melodies, enjoyed his solo moment in the spotlight with an upturn treatment of *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*. Very debonair, very Dukes.

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# What's she got to smile about?

Rather more, it seems, than her character in the forthcoming comedy *Notting Hill*, or so Julia Roberts tells Matt Wolf

In the new romantic comedy *Notting Hill*, Julia Roberts plays a hugely successful film star, an Oscar-winning actress whose shining smile is worth \$15 million a movie. In real life, Roberts, 31, has yet to win an Academy Award (although she has been nominated twice, for supporting actress for *Steel Dawn* in 1989 and the following year for her career-making role as the hooker in *Pretty Woman*). At the same time, her value has gone up to a reported \$17 million a picture for her forthcoming *Runaway Bride*, which reteams Roberts with her *Pretty Woman* co-star, Richard Gere, and its director, Garry Marshall.

Nonetheless, it is tempting to regard Anna Scott, her latest screen heroine, as some variation on Roberts herself. So it comes as a surprise not just to find that Roberts in the flesh comes across as considerably more articulate and self-possessed (and even more beautiful) than Anna, but also to hear the actress distance herself from her character: whatever else *Notting Hill* may or may not be, its star says it is not to be taken as a convenient essay on art imitating the worries of life.

"Just because you share an occupation with someone doesn't mean you're the same person," says Roberts, still energetic at the end of a day of interviews in the city where she spent several months filming *Notting Hill* last spring. The screenwriter Richard Curtis, Roberts says, "wrote a very specific type of actress in a very specific situation who has very precise ideas and values: I had to just reconcile the differences between us and not to judge her choices, because I didn't always agree with them."

Some actresses might balk at speaking lines in which their character envisages a future when both looks and popularity have faded. ("I'll become a sad middle-aged woman who looks a bit like someone who was famous for a while," Anna tells the English dinner table cronies of her new-found paramour Hugh Grant.)

"I don't have those concerns at all," says Roberts. "But, again, we are different people. Anna is still unsure of her own worth, whether as an actor or as a person. What is written about her concerns her a lot

more than it would concern me: she's a lot more fragile."

It may be, too, that after 13 years in the profession — most of them near the top of it — Roberts understands the workings of an industry that is increasingly fixated on youth and on, well, locating the next Julia Roberts. "I just know who I am and what I want and why I want it," she says. "As you become an adult, you gather information and life experiences which help to form the person you are and what you aspire to be."

Of Anna's frets, Roberts continues, "I don't have those concerns and I never have, although that's not to say that one day I may not

ered by my life and the choices that I make and part of the choice is what I do, and I find it freeing, not trapping."

The public, though, clearly prefers Roberts happy, flashing that now-celebrated grin that her *Stepmom* co-star, Susan Sarandon, has compared to "the sun coming out". But Roberts insists that she be allowed to pursue darker screen paths and invokes her involvement in the unsuccessful *Mary Reilly* to make her point. With that film, Roberts recalls, "people were saying, 'Why is she so dark?' But what on earth does Mary Reilly have to smile about: getting up at 4am and spit-shining shoes? Should I be singing a little song?"

In any case, the Roberts smile "is not a skill, it's a gift. If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents. If people are going to support me, or pretend to support me, my belief is that they must support my desire to be a good actor, and in order to be a good actor it is my obligation to my desire to try different things. If I did the same thing all the time, how quickly would people get bored? They would be like, 'She's smiling again; oh God, that smile.'"

Late next month Roberts gets serious again, playing the title role of a secretary who becomes embroiled in the biggest civil action suit ever in Steven Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovich*, a Universal film based on a true story. "The reason I do a movie is the same as it was ten years ago," she says. "I like it or I don't, period. I respond on some level which is all my own regardless of what seems to be public demand."

And what about the real question posed by *Notting Hill*: could a film star ever fall for a mere mortal, as Anna does for the travel bookshop owner, played by Grant? "Look, as a working actor one is far more likely to meet and spend one's greatest amount of time with other actors. But separate and apart from that, I don't believe we are what we do. I'm not actor-Julia; I'm Julia. If you are with the right person and you have that amazing well of communication and support, then anything is understandable."

● *Notting Hill* opens in London on May 21 and nationwide on May 28

'I feel liberated and inspired by my life'

wake up and feel some of the insecurity that she expresses." And not to forget, as Roberts points out, that the scene is constructed as a contest to see which dinner guest can be most self-deprecating.

Roberts acknowledges her own career ascent that long ago found her surpassing older brother Eric in the renown sweepstakes and has now positioned her as one of only a handful of actresses within striking distance of the \$20 million-a-movie (or more) earned by the likes of Nicolas Cage, John Travolta and Mel Gibson. (A third sibling is a stage actress based, like Roberts, in Manhattan.)

Has fame been a trap, as *Notting Hill* suggests it has for its main character? That notion, she says, "seems so powerful. I think there is an essence of truth to it but I don't feel trapped and I don't feel like anybody has the power but me, and that's not said as a challenge. I feel liberated and inspired and empow-



"The smile is not a skill, it's a gift," Julia Roberts says. "If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents"

## Possessed by low-tech chills

### THE EXORCIST

Warner, 18, 1973. I THINK the country's moral fabric can survive the rental release of this horror show, long banned on video. It's the tale, if you need reminding, of the battle for the soul of a possessed young girl (Linda Blair). A modern remake would go to town depicting the child's violence; director William Friedkin prefers bursts and snatches. And just look at the low-tech bile flying from the girl's mouth: it looks about as harmless as baby food. Blair, 14 at the time, writhes and scowls nicely, but the face that haunts is Jason Miller's, as the Jesuit priest with a faltering faith.

### I WANT YOU

PolyGram, 18, 1998. IN A depressed seaside town Rachel Weisz's hairdresser suffers the loving gaze of a silent 14-year-old refugee and the un-

wanted attentions of her former boyfriend, now on parole after a murder conviction (Alessandro Nivola). This latest film from hot British director Michael Winterbottom, inspired by the song by Elvis Costello, is his most European yet in style, dazzlingly shot on Hastings locations, with surreal atmosphere galore. Available to rent.

### LES MISERABLES

Entertainment, 12, 1998. VICTOR HUGO's huge novel turns up here in straight dramatic form, inevitably much abbreviated, directed by Bill August. No great artistic heights are scaled, but at least the story takes less time to watch than to read. Liam Neeson is disappointing as the former prisoner Valjean trying to shake off his past; Claire

Danes looks out of place as the girl raised as his own child; Uma Thurman suffers sweetly as the ill-fated Fantine; and Geoffrey Rush impresses as police Inspector Javert, who won't let bygones be bygones. A rental release.

### SILENT SHAKESPEARE

BFI, E. HISTORIANS and Bard fanciers, rejoice. Here is a wonderful tape that dips into the National Film and Television Archive for seven silent stabs at filming Shakespeare, three from Britain, two apiece from America and Italy. Primitive? Of course. But you still gaze in awe at these fragments, featuring Herbert Beerbohm Tree as King John (filmed in 1899), an energetic Richard III from Frank Benson (shot on Stratford's stage in 1911), and the

Italian Ermene Novelli, most impressive as King Lear. Fine prints, considering the material's age; sensitive musical accompaniment.

■ **STILL CRAZY**  
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1998. MILDLY amusing British comedy about the attempted comeback of Strange Fruit, a long-disbanded 1970s British rock band. Bill Nighy is the ego-inflated lead singer, Jimmy Nail strums a mean guitar, Stephen Rea jerks out chords on the keyboard, Timothy Spall bashes the drums, and Billy Connolly drives the bus. They are good enough company, and director Brian Gibson knows a thing or two about presenting music in films. If only everyone were not so tethered to the script's compendium of clichés. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

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### CHORAL

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Motets. Clerks' Group/Wickham Signum SIGCDO11. \*\*\* £14.99. WAR, plague and a schismatic papal court: this is the world of the 14th-century composer Guillaume de Machaut as presented by the Clerks' Group and Edward Wickham on this enticing disc, the first of a series of three to feature a particular medieval manuscript, and other music by one composer from that manuscript.

So Machaut's motets are in-set here within a framework of anonymous Mass music associated with Avignon from the Ivrea Codex, the prime source for *ars nova* music. Much of it is recorded here for the first time: the Clerks' Group is already well-known for championing neglected Renaissance repertoire, and its cunning programming enriches its fresh performances, recorded in an airy church acoustic.

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The performers are alert to both the play and the passion within this music — as, for instance, a sensuous and intimate motet comes up against an exuberantly expanded Sanctus, or as a mischievously archaic ditty faces the public splendour of a post-Mass exhortation.

#### HILARY FINCH

### ORCHESTRAL

#### RUDERS

Symphony No 2, Piano Concerto Hind/Danish National RSO/Schwarz/Schwarz. Da Capo 8 224125. \*\*\* £14.99. THE Danish composer Paul Ruders sprang to fame here in 1996, when his witty *Concerto in Pieces* was given at the Last Night of the Proms. The recent Second Symphony, which comes to London tomorrow (played by the Brunel Ensemble at St John's Smith Square), presents a very different face of Ruders — though not necessarily a more typical one.

Cast in a single movement lasting 28 minutes, it is hardly comfortable listening, but in Michael Schwarz's reading makes a powerful statement about our troubled

times. Halfway through, urgent trumpet tattoos obtrude, followed by a long, disjointed horn theme. A background texture of ever-increasing complexity offers little respite, and insistent drums gradually make their presence felt. This is but a portent of the final relentless onslaught, underpinned by savage percussion. The Piano Concerto (soloist: Rolf Hind) is less oppressive, though textures are sparse in the extreme. Ruders's control of materials is masterly, however, and there is much to enjoy as well as admire in Markus Stenz's account.

#### BARRY MILLINGTON

### OPERA

#### DONIZETTI

Mary Stuart. Plover/Baker/Rendall/Ortiz/Tomlinson/ENO Orch/Mackerras. Chandos CHAN 3017(2) (2 CDs) \*\*\* £19.99. CHANDOS, zealous in the cause of opera in English, has acquired some of the recordings made during live performances at the Coliseum in the early 1980s. Few evenings were more glorious than Donizetti's *Mary Stuart*. Here

are Janet Baker and Rosalind Plover right firing on all cylinders as the rival queens of Scotland and England.

Donizetti upset convention by making the soprano the villainess while assigning the soulful victim to the mezzo. Plover is full of fire as Elizabeth, breathing vengeance on all who flout her will. The dark tones in her voice as well as the chilling strength of the upper register show how right she was for the part. This may be Donizetti, but the role demands the qualities of a Verdi dramatic soprano.

Baker does not indulge in too much self-pity as Mary, stoic in the final act after giving as good as she gets at the famous, if fictitious, meeting between the two monarchs outside Chatsworth. It is a female-dominated work, but David Rendall and John Tomlinson seize their opportunities as rival courtiers. Charles Mackerras is the superb conductor: would that he had given us more Donizetti while at the Coliseum.

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## DANCE

Place in the limelight



John Ashford at The Place: "I don't think it's made a difference, but I've had a good time"

## Godfather of modern dance

The Place, a converted rifle and drill hall in Central London, has long been one of Britain's most important dance and choreographic centres. It was here, in 1969, that the arts philanthropist and Martha Graham devotee Robin Howard found a permanent home for his Contemporary Dance Trust. Howard's initiatives remain the energy source for most of British modern dance.

Nearly 30 years later, John Ashford received Howard's seal of approval when he was hired as director of The Place's intimate, 300-seat theatre. Today it is primarily thanks to Ashford that, as a performance venue, The Place has become a mecca for fans of both home-grown and global dance. A singularly savvy programmer, this dapper 54-year-old has carved out a niche for himself as the UK's godfather of new contemporary moves.

Ashford has instituted a handful of ambitious, annual themed seasons including *Re: Orient* (contemporary dance from the Asian Pacific, together with work by Asian-British artists), *Spring Loaded* (a three-month celebration of the diversity of British dance) and *Resolution* (a platform for shorter works by emerging artists from the UK and abroad, lasting seven weeks).

"The theatre's first job is to offer a platform to British work," Ashford maintains. "Yet, when I arrived, I felt that as dance has an international currency there should be an international aspect to the programme. I had to find devices to invite that work. *The Turning World* was the vehicle."

The name is lifted from T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*: "At the still point of the turning world... there the dance is." Conceived in 1990, this annual season of international dance and dance-theatre was destined from the start to terminate in 1999. "It was always billed as a season 'dancing to the edge of a millennium,'" Ashford says, "and then we'd stop and think."

A decade on, it's easy to map out just how far *The Turning World* has travelled. Think of it as a kind of multicultural passport, transporting London audiences to a panorama of new kinetic landscapes. Although performances are centred on The Place, additional and significant sites have been provided by the South Bank

The world is about to stop turning for John Ashford of The Place. Donald Hutera finds out why

Centre, Sadler's Wells and, this year, the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Working with programmers from those venues, Ashford has been instrumental in importing work by nearly a hundred artists from almost two dozen countries, including Japan, Tunisia and, this year, Brazil, which will send the Deborah Colker company, and Australia, which is

"It was my decision to end it. Ten years. That's all"

represented by Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre.

A majority of artists, including a sizeable number of repeat visitors, have hailed from Europe. Belgium's Wim Vandekeybus and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Spain's Vicente Saez and, from Germany, Rudi Horta.

Ashford casts the Euro connection in a political light. "We've gone to the north and gotten Scandinavian work, south for Spanish and Portuguese work, and east to Slovenia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The geographical spread is very important to me. The more people there are who are knowledgeable about what happens in other European countries — whether through dance or by another means — the more we are likely to come to terms with Europe's history this century, and get on with playing our

proper part in it in the next."

Neatly, the conclusion of *The Turning World* coincides with a major refurbishment of The Place. The National Lottery, through the Arts Council of England, has awarded the complex just over £5 million for a revamp that will commence in June and be completed by late spring of 2001. The King's Cross Partnership has also given £750,000 towards the 25 per cent matching funding the project requires, leaving The Place to raise an additional £900,000. All this will translate into easier and more welcoming access, a new café and proper bar, new toilets, lifts and dressing rooms, and a block of state-of-the-art studios. The building work is unlikely directly to affect dance programming until next June, when the theatre space itself will undergo its facelift.

Ashford started out wanting to be a theatre director, and in the late Sixties worked with the likes of Caryl Churchill and David Hare. He was also founding theatre editor of *Time Out* magazine. But his interest grew in dance. "So I took two years off to research dance here and throughout the world, just using contacts I'd made in theatre. I didn't read about it, or study it. I just looked at it."

The passion Ashford developed for recognising and nurturing new talent is fuelled by The Place's several choreographic residency programmes and seasons like *The Turning World*, but Ashford's dedication reaches beyond that. "Some stuff you just have to be committed to through thick and thin," he explains. "There are one or two artists, like Slovenia's Izak Kovac, whose work we've supported all the way for reasons which are not only to do with the quality of that work."

He professes to have no regrets about *The Turning World's* imminent demise. "It was my decision. Ten years. That's all. During that decade much more international work has been presented in London. Perhaps when others saw that we could successfully attract audiences for work that was absolutely unknown, they felt more confident about taking the same kind of risks."

He pauses. "No, that's not true. I don't think it's made that much difference. But I've had a very good time."

● *The Turning World* runs from May 4 to June 12 (0171-357 0031)

حكاية من الراحل

## ARTS

## Bad news, badly done

BROADCASTING: Peter Barnard on the day the BBC got it terribly wrong when covering the violent death of one of its own

I met Jill Dando only twice and interviewed her only once, by telephone, for *The Times*. The interview was for a piece about local radio and I wanted to speak to someone of her stature who had started out in the make-theatre, read-the-news milieu that local radio was in her day and, to a large extent, remains now.

Dando was in some far-flung location, filming for BBC1's *Holiday* programme, when she got the message that I would like to speak to her. An arrangement was made that she would telephone me at 3pm one day. The call came no more than three minutes after that time. She began with a profuse apology for being "late".

Much has been said and written in the past few days about Dando's humility and lack of affectation and I think that my experience of her confirms both. She was also a person with a sense of proportion, so one must wonder what on earth she would have made of the coverage of her murder on the day that it happened.

Radio 5 Live was essential listening on Monday afternoon, but there were moments — too many moments — when some listeners must have echoed the feelings of a letter in *The*

*Times* yesterday from a reader who said that the "effusiveness of the BBC's coverage of the event was out of all proportion..." Yes, I am afraid it was.

Ian Payne's afternoon show on 5 Live bore the brunt. Let it be said right away that Payne and his producer were in an extremely difficult position, given that the story of the day concerned someone virtually every BBC broadcaster knew. It was understandable that such people would have their emotions on show.

There is, however, a requirement to respond to tough situations with tough decisions. Restraint is everything, exaggeration has no place. A story such as Dando's murder tells itself and should be allowed to do so. That did not happen on Monday, when we were treated to the worst excesses of the touchy-feely era.

The result was coverage that became embarrassing, save for the moment when Nick Ross, Dando's co-presenter on *Crimewatch UK* and an outstand-

ing broadcaster of consummate moderation, came on the line. The exchange began along these lines. Payne: "This is the worst day ever, isn't it?" Ross: "I wouldn't quite go that far..." I should think not.

On every BBC news bulletin that I heard or saw, Dando was referred to throughout as "Jill". This was unprecedented. It was also proof that the BBC had allowed its own relationship with Dando to come between it and the story. The use of the first name on its own amounts to editorialising, for it puts the subject of the story in a category separate from all others. This was news for grown-ups being treated as if it were an item on the children's programme *Newsround*.

In the evening BBC1 ran a half-hour tribute to Dando, fronted by Desmond Lynam. It was dreadful, a throw-together collage transmitted in haste to be repented at leisure. Just when we needed Dando the three-dimensional person, we got more of the two-dimensional presenter we already knew. It

sold her short and it was unworthy of the BBC, which hardly ever puts out tribute programmes so soon after a death. Why did it happen this time?

My mind went back to the sudden, though natural, death of Brian Redhead a few years ago. An important story, but one that was seriously overcooked on the *Today* programme, which at times that morning sounded like an in-house network rather than a national broadcaster. The same impression was conveyed on Monday. It was, quite simply, too much.

I liked Dando, as a presenter and as a person. The enthusiasm with which she recalled, during that conversation with me, her training at Radio Devon demonstrated that here was a household name who was proud of her roots rather than (like some) trying to bury them beneath the luxuriant foliage of fame.

Dando was a good journalist and a warm presenter. Her murder was and remains both a tragedy and a major news story. But she was hardly a towering presence on the broadcasting landscape and she would have been the last person to claim any such status. Unfortunately Dando's sense of proportion was absent from the coverage of her own death by her own employers.

## Flawed airing of first draft

The second operatic offering in the City of London Sinfonia's "Greek Myths" tribute to Richard Strauss came in the form of the first version of *Ariadne*. It's not such a rarity as his wrong-headed but riveting reworking of *Idomeneo*: this marriage of Molière's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and the *Ariadne* chamber opera was fully and memorably staged at the Edinburgh Festival two years ago. In fact it is a perfectly valid alternative: sharper, more alienating, but near-impracticable in terms of personnel and budget.

Tuesday's version was semi-staged, with the half-hearted, hangdog routines for the *commedia* troupe making one wish it had been in purely concert form. The Molière was replaced with a genial narration which was written and delivered by Nigel Douglas in splendid 18th-century costume.

He had some good jokes about new and old money. much appreciated by an audience in which, as someone unkindly remarked, the braying classes were well represented. There was nothing on the subject of what the opera might be about — a pity — and neither the blind nor the deaf could have mistaken this elegant, soigné M. Jourdain for a social climber.

One good reason for performing *Ariadne* is Strauss's witty incidental music for the play, but unfortunately the CLS was having an off-night — for too many nights — and Richard Hickox gave little indication of why he wanted to conduct this piece: fast, unyielding tempos, a depressing, indeed incomprehensible absence of nuance, lack of concern for internal or external balance in this most fastidiously scored music. Things went a little better bashing through the purple passages in the opera, but not much.

So, thank heavens for the singers, led by Christine Brewer's magnificent *Ariadne*, sumptuous of looe, as delicate of phrase as the conductor allowed, heroic in delivery. She's a perfectly lovely singer. The only criticism of Cynthia Sieden's *Zerbine* is that she made it sound far too easy. It is, of course, much harder in this version, the final section of her aria a tone higher with forests of top Es and a top F sharp. Sieden flung it all off with insouciant ease in a truly virtuoso performance. Adrian Thompson was a robust, verbally incisive *Bacchus*, and Roderick Williams made his mark in *Harlekin's* aria.

Nigel Douglas had the last word: "I'm afraid I slept through most of that." I'm afraid that for much of the time I rather envied him.

RODNEY MILNES

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	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %
<b>BONUS GOLD</b>								
£100,000+	5.05	5.05	4.85	4.85	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.55	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.20	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.00	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.40	3.40	3.30	3.30	-	-	-	-
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£10,000+	4.95	4.94	4.85	4.75	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	4.55	4.55	4.45	4.46	-	-	-	-
£2,500+	4.22	4.22	4.12	4.12	-	-	-	-
£1,000+	4.02	4.02	3.93	3.93	-	-	-	-
£500+	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.25	-	-	-	-
<b>Savings Gold</b>								
£25,000+	3.20	3.20	2.95	2.95	3.15	3.15	2.90	2.92
£10,000+	3.00	3.00	2.75	2.75	3.10	3.10	2.85	2.88
£5,000+	2.80	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.85	2.85	2.60	2.60
£2,500+	2.45	2.45	2.20	2.20	2.45	2.45	2.20	2.17
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£25,000+	3.15	3.15	2.91	2.91	3.11	3.11	2.86	2.89
£10,000+	2.96	2.96	2.72	2.72	3.06	3.06	2.81	2.85
£5,000+	2.76	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.81	2.81	2.57	2.60
£2,500+	2.42	2.42	2.18	2.18	2.42	2.42	2.18	2.14
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£10,000+	2.05	2.05	1.95	1.95	2.00	2.00	1.90	1.92
£5,000+	1.95	1.95	1.85	1.85	1.90	1.90	1.80	1.84
£2,500+	1.85	1.85	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.65	1.68
£500+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>ASSET PROTECTION CHECK ACCOUNT</b>								
£10,000+	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.00	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.40
£5,000+	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.75	3.30	3.30	3.05	3.00
£2,500+	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.40	2.95	2.95	2.75	2.70
£500+	2.90	2.90	2.70	2.70	2.65	2.65	2.45	2.45
<b>ASSET PROTECTION CHECK ACCOUNT</b>								
£10,000+	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.80
<b>ASSET PROTECTION CHECK ACCOUNT</b>								
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.80	2.80	2.55	2.55
£5,000+	2.30	2.30	2.05	2.05	2.30	2.30	2.05	2.05
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£10,000+	2.76	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.76	2.76	2.52	2.52
£5,000+	2.28	2.28	2.03	2.03	2.28	2.28	2.03	2.03
<b>ASSET PROTECTION CHECK ACCOUNT</b>								
£10,000+	3.20	3.20	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.80
£5,000+	2.65	2.65	2.45	2.45	2.65	2.65	2.45	2.45
£2,500+	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.68

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Rates shown do not include bonus, except where stated.

ACCOUNT	Non-resident rates <sup>1</sup>				Non-personal rates <sup>2</sup>			
	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99
	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %
<b>BONUS GOLD</b>								
£100,000+	4.35	4.35	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	3.85	3.85
£50,000+	4.00	4.00	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.70	3.70
£25,000+	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.35	3.35
£10,000+	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.40	3.45	3.45	3.25	3.25
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£10,000+	4.25	4.27	4.09	4.02	4.09	4.02	3.89	3.78
£5,000+	4.00	3.93	3.85	3.78	3.85	3.78	3.70	3.64
£2,500+	3.70	3.64	3.53	3.45	3.53	3.49	3.35	3.30
£500+	3.60	3.54	3.40	3.35	3.45	3.40	3.25	3.20
<b>ASSET PROTECTION CHECK ACCOUNT</b>								
£10,000+	2.75	2.75	2.55	2.55	5.09	5.09	-	-
<b>ASSET PROTECTION CHECK ACCOUNT</b>								
£10,000+	5.30	5.30	5.05	5.05	5.65	5.65	-	-
£5,000+	5.20	5.20	5.45	5.45	5.57	5.57	-	-
£2,500+	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	5.82	5.82	-	-

POINTS TO NOTE. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Interest will be paid out after the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form and made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings customers who appear in our records as being under 21. If your savings account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21. The non-resident interest rates are payable to individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and who complete an appropriate declaration form. "Bonus Gold, Solid Gold and Liquid Gold non-personal accounts (such as accounts held by clubs, charities and companies) are no longer available to new customers." Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA, Halifax TESSA 2, Bonus Gold and Monthly Savings Bonuses, are available from any Halifax branch.

Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 29th April 1999



## BOOKS

# The literary bunfight of the century

Malcolm Bradbury finds he's off the shelf of this modern library — but that he's in very good company

It's a none-so-curious fact that whereas the great works of fiction from the first half of this century have acquired a firm place in the literary histories, been widely studied and placed in the chronicle of modern literature, those of the second half have not been set in much shape or order at all.

This is partly because they are considered as contemporary. Yet 50 years, in literary terms, is a long time. It's also partly because, where the literary endeavours of the first half-century have a certain aesthetic clarity, those of the second look much more fragmentary. All canons are in perpetual dispute. Still, if we consider who were the major writers of English-language fiction to the great cultural break of the Second World War, then a fairly clear line can be drawn up: say James, Conrad, Lawrence, Stein, Woolf, Joyce, Ford, Faulkner, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Waugh. Their great project would be the transformation of Victorian fiction, with its "loose baggy monsters", into a fiction of modernism and modernity. We are talking, in short, about an age.

The postwar period has not yet taken shape as an "age". It has seen a new set of revolutions in modern English-language fiction, not least be-

**THE MODERN LIBRARY**  
Ed. Carmen Callil  
and Colm Tóibín  
Picador, £12.99  
ISBN 0 330 34182 0



cause of the great irruption of American and other literatures. It contains its fair share of major talents. Yet the reputations are still disputed and its aesthetic developments don't look clear. Ten years back the term "Post-Modernism" served to suggest an artistic direction, taking us from the fiction of Beckett and Nabokov to that of Pynchon and Barth. But it has dissolved into a debate over vaguer matters: gender revision, post-colonialism, a transformation less of art forms than of subject matters and cultural origins.

That makes shaping a canon more difficult. We do it, of course; and at no time more than when a century and mil-

lennium is turning. The Callil-Tóibín *Modern Library* is one way of going about this. A user-friendly book, it partly acts as a listing of listings — giving us, for instance, accounts of past winners of the many prizes that nowadays go towards making literary reputations (the Booker, the Whitbread, the CNA, the Commonwealth, etc.) much as publication in avant garde magazines once aided the reputation of the great Modernists.

Listings (prizes, guides, culture supplements and so on) are now the way most artistic information is transacted. As with contemporary literary criticism itself, they are more concerned with pluralism and cultural eclecticism than standards of judgment. This book is not concerned with critical solemnities; in places it shows a dislike for academic styles in judgment. Enthusiasm, we're told, is its driving force; the books are chosen for readers "of every age and taste"; its purpose is to celebrate the writers we have loved best, and to proselytise on behalf of their novels: sources of entertainment and enjoyment as satisfying as any Hollywood movie.

The editors' listings are called passionate, idiosyncratic; they remind us they're neither English nor American

(Callil is Australian, Tóibín Irish). Thus they have good reason for taking an eclectic, cosmopolitan view of modern fiction. As they rightly say, some of the most important fictional writing now comes from anglophone writing elsewhere, from Australian and Canadian to Indian, African and Caribbean. They express justified impatience at the poor availability of many of these works, though the neglect has significantly if selectively diminished lately.

This provides the most refreshing side of the book, interesting entries you didn't expect to see: Bapsi Sidhwa, Kushwant Singh, Oscar Hijuelos, Scots, Irish (but not Welsh), Australasian, Canadian (but not South African) writing gets high rates of entry. So do genre writers: P. D. James and Ruth Rendell, Patricia Highsmith, John le Carré and Stephen King. So why not Ian Fleming?

I'm glad to see a number of books that matter to me: Wil-

liam Gaddis's *The Recognition*, William H. Gass's volume *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country*, B. S. Johnson's novel-in-a-box *The Unfortunates*, Wilson Harris's *Heartland*. There are some works of real triviality and the one-page-per-book entries vary greatly in quality. Some are deft in judgment; others are no more than publishers' blurbs, and many titles prove "electrifying" or "engrossing".

As an absentee myself, I am naturally interested in the sig-

nificant absences. Tolkien is directly excluded (and some may indeed prefer Stephen King). But it seems odd to be without one of the finest novels published here in the period, John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Peter Ackroyd, John Berger, Lawrence Durrell, Vikram Seth and Angus Wilson fail to make it. So do Paul Auster, John Barth, Richard Brautigan, Robert Coover, John Hawkes, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gore Vidal and Richard Wright.

The book is provocative and interesting. Its best use is to start an argument about an era that, at least in calendar terms, is closing (though since it uses passionate liking as the criterion it's hard to argue over terms). As it turns out, it has been a major period for anglophone fiction, and the novel itself has survived most of the disasters said to be awaiting it. Now it finishes the century in good shape. This book's great use is that it is what it helps us to see.



## Serbia in the grip of a deadly myth

One of the more dispiriting aspects of our current moral adventure in the Balkans is the deliberate perversion of objective reality. The West is determined to see through these operations against the dictator Milosevic yet Nato still ducks the issue of pre-settlement ground forces, the majority of Kosovans are being driven out, not massacred, and the presence of opposition leaders in Milosevic's Government suggests he is at worst an evil autocrat.

But these pale compared to the wilful unreality of the Serbs: the Kosovans are being driven out by the KLA and Nato; the pictures of refugees are faked; the Serbs are acting in self-defence. Most depressingly of all, even the most liberal Serbian voices seem to be without a word in defence of the simple humanity of the people victimised in their name. How can they be so obtuse?

Noel Malcolm has already dissected the Kosovo myth. Anzulovic's target is its overarching myth, "Heavenly Serbia" — the notion of the Serbs' preference for moral purity over military victory — and how it has led to genocide in the 1990s. Thomas provides a straightforward analysis of how Slobodan Milosevic came to, and maintained, power. Taken together, *Heavenly Serbia* and *Serbia under Milosevic* go a long way to explaining the apparent unreality of the voices of even moderate Serbs.

It is hard not to think that Serbia is stuck in some kind of cultural, historical and political adolescence. "Heavenly

**DOMINICK DONALD**  
**SERBIA UNDER MILOSEVIC**  
By Robert Thomas  
C. Hurst & Co., £14.95  
ISBN 1 850 65367 4  
**HEAVENLY SERBIA**  
By Branimir Anzulovic  
C. Hurst & Co., £25  
ISBN 1 850 65342 9

Serbia" is always right, particularly when outsiders indicate otherwise, and never more so than in cataclysmic defeat. Though the myth was useful in explaining Serbia's partly consensual Ottoman occupation, its application to 1990s Europe smacks of pathological self-indulgence. Thomas argues convincingly for Serbia's lack of political development. Political discourse has failed to move on from symbols to policies, and Milosevic has shanghaied the symbols. The largely urban "Happening of the Citizens" in the winter of 1996-97 seemed to show a growing political maturity. But so strong is the hold of the symbolic, and Milosevic's grip over the media and the rural population, that he could launch the crackdown in Kosovo in February 1998 simply to strengthen his position in Belgrade's post-election deadlock.

Is there anyone who can lead the country to maturity? Rarely can a people have been so ill-served by its elites. Its intellectuals were instrumental



Control in his sights: Milosevic exploits his grip on the media and the rural population

in supplanting communism with an unpleasant nationalist credo. Its literati churn out Nietzschean paens to violence (Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, is the author of a work called *Knife*), building on oral tradition and the 19th-century Montenegrin Prince-Bishop Njegos's hymn to ethnic cleansing, *The Mountain Wreath*. Its political opposition has yet to move beyond squabbles over whether Dayton is a betrayal of Greater

Serbia: of its leaders only Zoran Djindjic, president of the Democratic Party, emerges from the shenanigans of the 1990s with any credit.

The difficulty is that the myths and symbols have a near-universal hold over Serbs, and Nato has acted at a time when the political discourse is too immature to resist their lure. Neither work is perfect; Anzulovic has a dire chapter on the implications of Western acceptance of the

myth which repeats old canards, while Thomas's book reads like a dry textbook-in-progress. Yet both are essential for anyone who wants to know why the Serbs don't see things our way, and to work out how to deal with them.

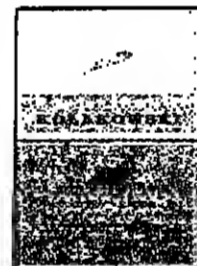
**LINKS**  
[www.bbc.org](http://www.bbc.org) regularly updated site detailing human rights abuses in Kosovo  
[www.serbicelinks.com](http://www.serbicelinks.com) the website of the Serbian Ministry of Information

## Tolerance isn't as laid-back as all that

There can be few more eminent figures in the world of ideas than Leszek Kolakowski. Now in his 72nd year, Kolakowski has held distinguished positions in America, Britain and his native Poland; his writings and speeches continue to play their part in shaping Western culture. Philosopher, historian, theologian, political scientist and literary critic, he exemplifies a type of intellectual already rare on the Continent, and almost non-existent in the English-speaking world. His most important book — the three-volume *Main Currents of Marxism* — effectively put an end to the intellectual pretensions of Marx and his followers, while, in his imaginative studies of the religious worldview, Kolakowski has made an exemplary attempt to overturn the cynical materialism of modern philosophy.

*Freedom, Fame, Lying and Betrayal* is a collection of short and lucid essays. Abstract thoughts about freedom, God and human nature are interwoven with concrete observations about the trials of modern life; and the author's humane and tolerant worldview is tested against the harsher human realities. There are no footnotes; the great philosophers are rarely mentioned, and modern scholarship is ignored. But the reader feels that he is in the presence of a deeply serious and learned thinker who has the rare gift of speaking simply about complex things. At their best the essays are little gems of applied philosophy; even when their light is dimmed by hesitation, they are both useful to the general reader and challenging to the academic philosopher.

**ROGER SCRUTON**  
**FREEDOM, FAME, LYING AND BETRAYAL**  
By Leszek Kolakowski  
Penguin, £8.99  
ISBN 0 14 028044 8



Kolakowski's experience of communism has left him with a deep revulsion towards that evil creed. But his philosophy is not defined by this revulsion; on the contrary, it is a search for some positive alternative. The result is a synthesis of Roman Catholic theology with a liberal-humanist morality. Whether this reconciliation of opposites is possible may be doubted; but Kolakowski is determined to make the attempt. It is, he implies, the best that we can hope for.

Catholics are often accused of intolerance. But as Kolakowski points out, tolerance is not merely compatible with strong beliefs; it actually requires them. To tolerate something you must also disapprove of it; otherwise what looks like tolerance is merely indifference. When gay activists accuse Catholics of "homophobia", they are trying to make disapproval into a crime. While pretending to attack intolerance, they are

actually displaying it. Here is one point where the morality of liberal humanism has let us down. Kolakowski is surely right in this. In my experience the most intolerant people are liberals: people who can tolerate any belief whatsoever, provided it is not seriously held, and who therefore demonise everyone who really disagrees with them.

Kolakowski's essay on God goes straight to the heart of modern doubts and soothes them with lapidary words. God is "that place to which Reason, the Imagination and the Heart are persistently drawn". He is the goal of our thinking and desiring, and without Him we cannot realise our potential. That there is God in the world counts, for Kolakowski, far more in favour of God's existence than Evil counts against it. And he implies that the chaos and violence of our times is a direct result of our loss of faith. He does not exculpate the Church for its experiments in violence; but he points to the virtue of an institution that can publicly confess to its faults.

Here and there Kolakowski misses an intellectual opportunity: in the essay on travel he sees this modern vice as a healthy expression of curiosity, rather than as what it is, a self-centred determination to be other; while in his account of violence he makes no mention of the concept of "structural violence" with which sociologists wage war on the institutions of social control. Nevertheless, the essays offer a sustained adventure of ideas, and the moral sense is constantly engaged by them.

■ **MAGNUS MILLS**, bus-driving Booker shortlistee, fears no comparison. The author of *The Restraint of Beasts* has a new book coming from Flamingo in September. *All Quiet on the Orient Express* publishers usually provide their reps with notes on "competition" (Helen Dunmore up against Sebastian Faulks, for instance) — so who is Mills up against? George Crabbe, Thomas Hardy and Franz Kafka, those wild 'n' crazy guys...

**DIARY & LETTERS**

and the judges had no idea who they were. Marina Warner, Michèle Roberts and Don Paterson read through hundreds of anonymous works and picked the best. The winners will be lifted from obscurity on May 27. Ian McEwan presents the cheques at London's Imagination Gallery.

■ **BERNARD CORNWELL** has always spread his talents, giving his books on Sharpe and the "Rebel" series to HarperCollins and his Arthurian trilogy to Penguin. Now he'll put all his books under the HarperCollins roof for a seven-figure deal, with the publication of *Stoneheart* 2000 BC in time for Christmas.

■ **OVERHEARD** in a pub from a man recommending reading to two 18-year-olds: "Books give you a lovely balance between your own experience and the world's experience." Could anyone put it better?

■ [books@the-times.co.uk](mailto:books@the-times.co.uk)

of bin-liners and suitcase (our 1961 cardboard family "Revelation").

the Olympia Traveller I lugged around Mexico and two pairs of boots

The trouble with this is that it tries to suggest that attention to detail is attentiveness to the world. It also, in a very English way, tries to suggest that cold description hides deep feeling, as in the opening poem, *Tea for my Father*, which ends:

He likes it very strong, with cream, in mugs, and sweetens it himself. He puts it on the window-sill in front

of his table, and lets it go cold. Later on, I come and throw it out.

Interestingly, that poem is dated 1979. Gert Hofmann died in 1993, and the first part of the book consists of poems in his memory. The coy self-consciousness of lines like "Later on, I come and throw it out" have gone. In their place is a new attentiveness, not to detail but to the immense complexity and confusion of life.

The new south east cemetery is approximately nowhere ten stops by underground then bus zigzagging through the suburbs

The lack of punctuation makes palpable the sense of how death always escapes us. The poet accepts that and builds it into his poem. *Epithet*, the masterpiece of the collection, is still happy to enumerate ("Sprays of pluperfect flowers at your head, / the swanky brass tag at your feet"), but is open to people and situations as well.

A custodian (one of your characters, morbid and fussy and phlegmatic) took out the alarmingly long screws from the coffin, as though someone would try very hard to get out or — you would have said — in

This is as funny, rich and painful as a passage in Beckett. And that combination is to be found throughout the volume: in the fine *Kleist* in *Paris*, in the pairs of adultery and betrayal.

Michael Hofmann is one of our finest translators. He moves with ease between German, English and American cultures and idioms. Less extreme than his father, more at ease in the world, but with his father's compassion for the broken and defeated, he grows in stature with each succeeding book.

GABRIEL JOSIPOVICI

## Poet going somewhere, despite himself

هكذا من الاصل

## BOOKS

## God wouldn't believe in Dawkins, either

Is science 'the truth' or merely a system of belief?

A history of its institutions begs the question

In Samuel Johnson's great dictionary the first definition of "science" is simply "knowledge": the history of how it has decayed into a paranoid and destructive system of specialised applications is the history which this volume attempts to trace. It charts the course by which what was once the "servant of nature", to employ Francis Bacon's phrase, became the usurper and maligner of nature.

It must be noted at once that contemporary science is not an all-encompassing reality. It is a system of beliefs competing with other systems. It is an enterprise in time and space, in other words, an activity which changes direction or shape and sometimes even goes into reverse. One of the strengths of this volume, in fact, is the extent to which it illuminates how science alters according to the country or culture in which it is practised.

Certain cities encourage certain types of scientific methodology;

throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, for example, London and Paris were engaged in internecine warfare for pre-eminence in experimental manners with London encouraging pragmatic applications. And the authors of this book suggest that the 19th-century invention of the "campus" and the "graduate school" in the United States created a suitably enclosed and hierarchical environment for research.

In fact science has for most of its existence depended crucially upon institutions, generally male-dominated, and thus has become an aspect of patriarchal society. The culture of learned societies was co-opted by the State and became that of "official institutions" which supported "the forces of rational enlightenment, progress and modernisation".

Measurement itself becomes co-opted as a State activity — "The State established measures of assets, animals and inanimate", according to the authors of this book.

"better to control them" — and thus the concept of precision was directly related to acquisitiveness and power. The authors once more suggest that "measurement signalled industry and improvement". The introduction of uniform clock time, with the use of mechanical clocks, regimented life in ways unknown to any previous generation.

There are other very interesting chapters in this almost encyclopaedic survey. The connection between science and Protestantism, for example, is firmly made. It is true that the founders of the Royal Society, including Sir Isaac Newton, were practising alchemists and astrologers — and it is also true that this aspect of early experimental science has remained obscured in most histories of the subject. But the history of science in the last decades of the 17th, and the early decades of the 18th century is wholly implicated in the Protestant ethic.



Peter Ackroyd

One great intellectual historian has suggested that "Puritanism, and ascetic Protestantism generally... played no small part in arousing a sustained interest in science". The rejection of scholastic authority, the sustained examination of God and nature beyond the corrupting interpretation of priests, the faith in human perfectibility — all

blossomed in a consuming reverence for science and technology.

In similar fashion individual "cabinets of curiosities" became collections, which then turned into state-funded museums where the taxonomy of knowledge was displayed; the temples of the 19th century, "monumental and imposing", which evoked "connotations of dignity, antiquity and permanence", when in fact they were organised upon distorted and temporary misinterpretations of the world.

In this context it is interesting to note that in the 1870s one or two brave souls dared to question the truth and purpose of Darwinism — that, in the words of one opponent, was quackery designed "to refer all effects to the same cause" — before being silenced by the scientific establishment.

The social order and the scientific system have become so clearly implicated with each other that they cannot now be separated. There is no such thing as "pure" science, only that which has become the "servant" of the State rather than of nature.

There is a very interesting chapter here on the relationship between science and slaughter. It poses the question, "Why should warriors have a professional interest in abstract knowledge?" to which the only possible answer is that abstract knowledge is an instrument of power and of oppression. Abstract knowledge has no perpetrators and no victims: it represents a supposedly impersonal force which can effortlessly master the world. The authors note how physicians conduct a "war" against disease while bomber pilots master the guidance of their missiles with "surgical precision". The principal medical officer in the United States is known as the "surgeon-general".

This is in certain respects not an easy book to read; the level of cliché is high. Writers thunder, sands shift, struggles are deadly and lonesome are unwieldy. But if ever there was an occasion to divorce style from content, *Servants of Nature* represents it. It is a challenging, and necessary, book.

**SERVANTS OF NATURE**  
By Lewis Pyenson &  
Susan Sheets-Pyenson  
HarperCollins, £24.99  
ISBN 0 00 223852 X

## Dying for an identity

RUSSELL CELYN JONES

TAKING LIVES

By Michael Pye

Phoenix House, £16.99

ISBN 1 861591 09 8



WHAT'S in a name? Big trouble when it's not your own. A young Dutchman witnesses the accidental death of a stranger in Florida and sees a perverse opportunity. He mutilates the face, breaks the teeth and swaps watches with the dead man. Marin Arkenhout is now Seth Goodman, for a while at least. As his bogus identity is about to be rumoured in New York, he kills someone to assume another identity and moves on. The places he goes, the jobs he performs are described in a twilight prose to contrast with the graphic details of the murders.

But everyone has secrets that only surface after death. For the impostor this can be very compromising. Arkenhout's third victim is Professor Christopher Hart, an art historian who had stolen some valuable paintings. *The Liber Principis*, from a London museum.

Archivist John Michael Costa just wants the pictures back, no further questions asked, and meets Arkenhout to Portugal. Simultaneously the Dutch police are closing in on Arkenhout after a chance sighting by his mother as he was travelling through Amsterdam on his way to Portugal. But that is all I should reveal of this engaging plot.

In a way, Costa is in the same business as Arkenhout, museums being the mausoleums of misplaced identity. And from the moment Costa is revealed as the narrator his own identity problems become as central to the story as Arkenhout's. The prose, moreover, is striking. Take this one description of a fire: "A bush burst out in neon orange, then the red and orange licked their way to the edge of the road and the tall, dry grass stems went off like sparklers. The brambles ran like fuses into a hedge. The air shook so you could hear it, like a ship when the engines start turning."

Pye's concerns continue to broaden out to include Portugal's recent political history and classical archaeology. So many themes and changes in character and point of view require sustained concentration from the reader, as does Costa's slightly awkward explanations as to how he acquired information about Arkenhout while dealing with him as Hart.

But these are minor criticisms. Precise and absorbing, *Taking Lives* is also surprisingly moving for a thriller.

## The moral is: there are no morals

Peter Preston wishes Christopher Hitchens would forget about Bill and Sid and move on to other things

Christopher Hitchens is that cherishable rarity, a man of the Left who writes with all the barbed eloquence the Right has sought to make its own. His *Vanity Fair* essays often turn polemic into art form. He has the historic swagger of the old English pamphleteers. But alas, this is a rather sad little book.

Its ostensible purpose is to reveal William Jefferson Clinton as a compulsive fornicator, liar, bully, employer of scumbags, friend of mobsters and shameless political compromiser. Yes, quite: but what's new? Surely there's no market left for the standard Rees-Mogg thesis with added adjectives? What's new is the last five pages (out of 112) and they have almost nothing to do with Clinton and everything to do with the author's awful predicament.

A few weeks ago some of Washington's grandest political commentators put on a cabaret where they sang barbed songs about the great and not-so-good. Thus the President, sitting there in the audience, smiling, was "Caught by the DNA" (to a Springsteen beat). Another song featured one "Christopher Snitchens".

The story behind the sneer is simple enough. Hitchens went to lunch with his "old friend" turned White House

**NO ONE LEFT TO LIE TO**  
By Christopher Hitchens  
Verso, £12  
ISBN 1 85984 736 6



aide, Sidney Blumenthal. Sid told Chris that Monica was a compulsive "stalker" who the gallant Bill had fended off — and Sid knew because Bill had told him personally. Much later, Sid was hauled before the Senate and asked whether the lies about stalking were White House ones. Oh no, he said. Oh yes they were, said his old "friend" Chris to the House Judiciary Committee, dishing the lunch table chat. Clinton walked away unscathed. Blumenthal stayed stuck in a perjury mire.

Here's the kind of judgment call that journalists have to make from time to time, an ethical dilemma which can punch you on the nose if you get it wrong. Was Chris wrong

to snitch on Sid? Perhaps. The source was a churn talking off the record. Any practical judgment at the time of the snitch was that it would make no difference: Clinton, lies or no lies, was already certain of acquittal. But these personal/professional quandaries are the devil to deal with and you can make out a good case for testifying truly when called.

The trouble is that Christopher Hitchens doesn't make that case. He makes a six-page omelette of a defence in which he is "taken hostage" by Blumenthal's information and resolves at the last "that the pact a journalist makes is, finally, with the public". He lectures us on the "great, annihilating" tactics of Stalinism. He finds, equally, that "Clinton poisons everything it touches". And here is what is so sad about this slim volume. It is a work of absurdly conflated self-justification. It tells you rather too much about the bleeding ego of the author — and thus not much of interest about its supposed subject.

Bill Clinton, for Hitchens's purposes, has to be portrayed as one of history's great monsters. Monica has to be a defenceless and vulnerable young woman. The supporting cast, from Vernon Jordan to Colin Powell, has to be uniformly repulsive. The poor have to be thrown into the gutter while the rich fawn on



It's enough to make anyone clutch his head in his hands: Clinton faces scandal yet again

the destroyer of the New Deal.

This is a Ben Jonson version of Beltway life designed to shed a kinder light on our hero, who stood out against corruptive tyranny — and paid for his bravery by being laughed at in Washington supper clubs.

Time to move on. Clinton is bombing Belgrade (and that doesn't fit the thesis). Sid is no friend of Chris any longer and forgetfulness blooms again in Washington. Much, much better books await the Hitchens touch. There now, can we all calm down?

## LINKS

[www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk): the grassroots "National Committee" that lobbied to impeach Clinton first time around.  
[www.essentialclinton.org](http://www.essentialclinton.org): a site devoted to stopping "the witch hunt".  
[www.burlyweb.com/moonflap](http://www.burlyweb.com/moonflap): describes itself as "The Moonflap Lovers' On Line Fan Club".



## On the crest of a wave

**DANCING NAKED IN THE MIND FIELD**  
By Kary Mullis  
Bloomsbury, £12.99  
ISBN 0 7475 4376 3

THE biochemist Kary Mullis won the 1993 Nobel Prize for PCR (polymerase chain-reaction) which gave new meaning to DNA. Thereafter known as the Surfer Scientist, he has been high on a wave ever since. Now he gives us his Joe Schmo attitude on life, love, alien encounters and the ruthless careerism of the scientific establishment. His view is that the bastards are out to get ya. For all the California Weird. Krazy Kary knows a thing or two.

## Love lines

**ARTHUR RIMBAUD**  
By Benjamin Ivry  
Oxford, £6.99  
ISBN 1 899791 71 X

WE are mostly adjusted now to the significance of a poet's sexuality in any assessment of his work, though there is an argument against categorisation of gays in a literary ghetto. Ivry's short biography is dedicated to Rimbaud as an "exceptional being dedicated somatically and psychically to homosexuality" and deals fully with Rimbaud's violent, passionate affair with Verlaine. The muse of lyric poetry doesn't discriminate against poets — only critics and readers do that. Ivry is on the side of Erato.

## No nonsense

**MIND, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY**  
By John Searle  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99  
ISBN 0 297 64300 2

SEARLE's subtitle, "Philosophy in the Real World", is a dunking clue to his belief in external realism and Enlightenment idealism. His attitude that his distaste for Post-Modernism is unfashionable, but at least he is confident of the material existence of the ground on which he sturdily plants his feet. It's a real bruiser for reality: in this short book, he punches his weight in defence of common sense against the effete, affected, artificial constructs of relativism.

## All that jazz

**A PORTRAIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON**  
By Stuart Nicholson  
Sidgwick & Jackson, £20  
ISBN 0 283 06338 6

THE current fashion for biography, exemplified by George Plimpton's recent biography of Truman Capote, as a cult and pastiche compilation of oral testimony from his friends, family and associates, and with minimal authorial linking narrative, is perpetuated here to immediate effect. Compiled from first hand sources, it takes jazz back to its roots, profiling the Duke, one of its polymathic greats, in this centennial year of his birth. A terrific rap.

IAIN FINLAYSON

## A rural idyll not mired in sentiment

JONATHAN DIMBLEBY

PERCH HILL

By Adam Nicolson

Robinson

£14.99

ISBN 1 84119 054 3



Adam Nicolson is both a refugee from the city and a columnist. It would be easy, therefore, to rush to judgment about this account of urban exile on a farm in the Sussex Weald. Mercifully, though, this book is not another exercise in metropolitan archness and angst. On the contrary, it is a delight: beautifully written, acutely observed and laced with self-mockery.

After the failure of his first marriage, Nicolson was on his uppers, psychologically as well as financially — a collapse of self-esteem which he recounts with no trace of false sentiment. His epiphany came after a late night trudge through London which was aborted when a gang of teenagers threw bleach in his eyes and mugged him. Supported by the saint-like Sarah, the woman for whom he had left his wife, he began his search for a Postmodern Arcadia and ended up falling for Perch Hill Farm: a dreary house, some asbestos buildings and 90 acres of unpromising farmland on the edge of the Sussex Weald.

So far, so predictable. What makes this particular love affair with rural England unusual is Nicolson's ability to interweave mud-spattered anecdote with poetic observation. So he rages against a neighbour who pours tarmac on an

ancient cart-track to protect a voluptuous BMW, but he is touched by a meeting of farmers trying to save a local market and who inhabit "fences in which the wind had broken the veins".

He also has a fine sense of the absurd. Eager for free-range eggs, he buys the birds and builds a palace of a hen-coop, but its inhabitants soon fall from grace as the author notices that the eye of a chicken is "about as warm and responsive as a 100-watt bulb". And when his ewes break through a fence, they not only contrive to vandalise a car but



Nicolson sees the countryside's romance without romanticising it. Photo from Images

he has to fork out £3,000 in damages.

At his best, Nicolson is a chronicler in the class of Richard Jefferies or John Stewart Collis. Like them, he describes the land and the people who work on it with precision and insight. And, like them, he wears his learning lightly. As an environmentalist who knows that "an oak tree 60 foot high may drink 15,000 gallons of water a day", he instinctively nurtures the concept of "sustainability" but approaches its meaning without once using the term or belabouring the point. Nor, incidentally, does

he pontificate about the rape to which the landscape of southern England has been subjected, though it clearly dismays him.

Nicolson is not ashamed to wear his heart on his sleeve. One hot afternoon, when butterflies "cruised and flickered" across a field and a wood was "needled with birdsong", he lay in the grass and buried his nose in "the sun-warmed turf, breathed it in, smelled how good it was", knowing that he was right to have made the move. In moments of such bliss, he appears to inhabit a world where the human spirit

and nature are at one and where he is able to discover "the underside, those deeper connections" to which he is drawn again and again.

As he and Sarah become ever more rooted in their arcanid refuge, Nicolson reflects with characteristic self-deprecation that "the whole experience was a blunder into truth". It is a tale well told and a truth worth the telling.

## LINKS

[www.greenbookend.com/cpre](http://www.greenbookend.com/cpre): the official website of the Committee for the Protection of Rural England

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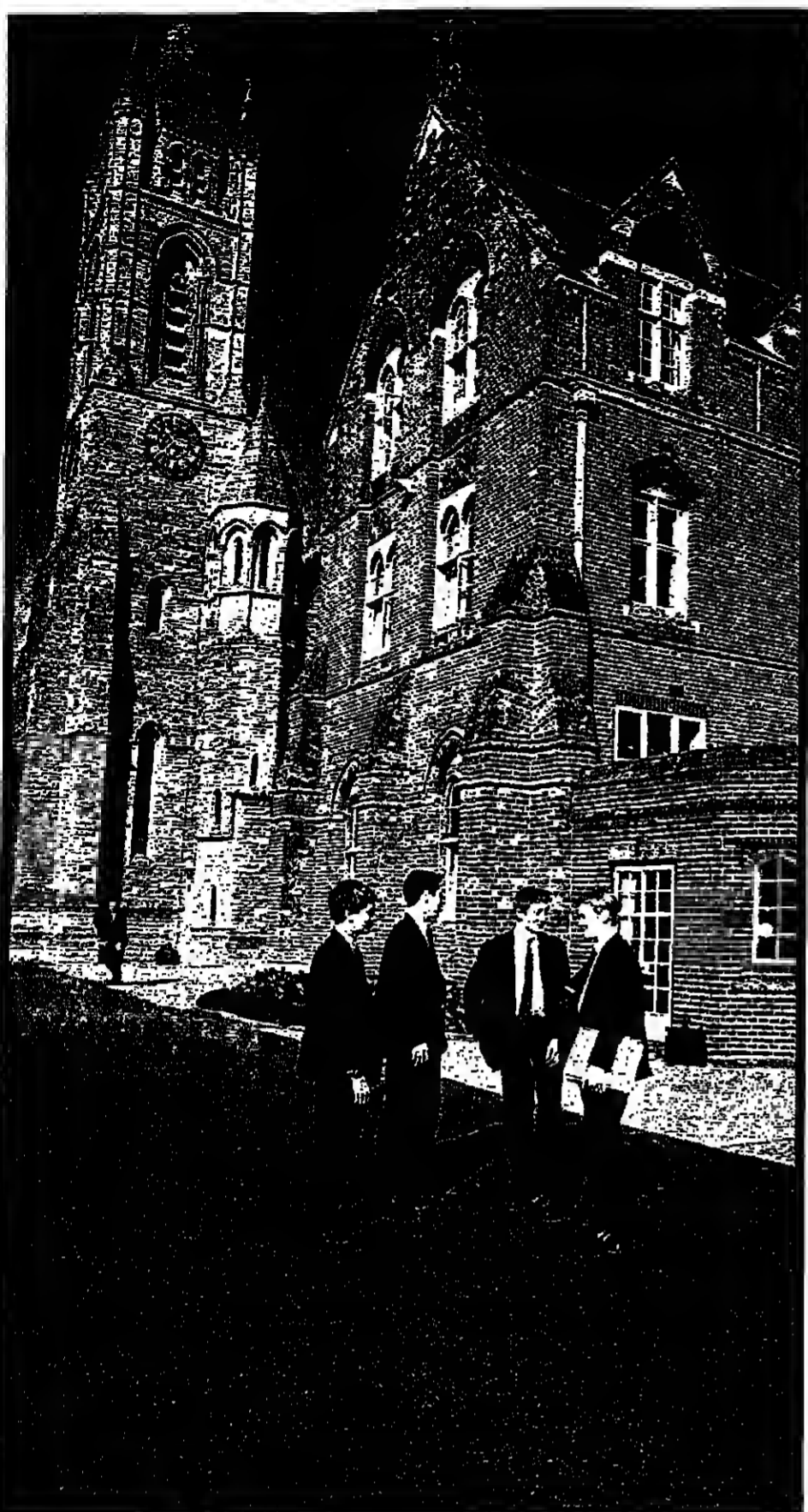
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ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

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# From Victoria to the millennium



Victorian Gothic architecture provides a genteel façade for a modern academic outlook

**T**hough dressed mostly in the garb of Victorian Gothic architecture, St Edward's is not afraid to grasp the torch of progress. Tradition is respected, but the future is embraced and the school provides a system of education that denies isolation yet retains the bonds that hold a school together. It acknowledges that academic and sporting success (at which the school excels) are not the be-all and end-all of education.

The school aims to have a broad intake. A common entrance mark of 50 per cent, as an average of all the papers, is needed for entry — below the level required by many "metropolitan powerhouses" but it fits St Edward's philosophy. "We like a range of pupils and that includes a broad intellectual range as well as a wide range of talents, be they sporting, artistic, musical," says David Christie, the Warden (headmaster). "Children get a better education the more they mix with people of a wide range of abilities and backgrounds: this prepares them better for the future."

In *The Times* A-level school league table last year the school came 351st in the country. And with 15 Oxbridge places being awarded to pupils in 1998 (out of about 90), the children's intellects are not suffering.

Mr Christie's philosophy and enthusiasm stem from his teaching experiences. One of the few public school headmasters with a background in the state sector, he originally taught at George Watson's in Edinburgh.

He then trained teachers at Moray House College, also in Edinburgh, which moulded his thoughts on schooling: "The old style of teacher training was a difficult, frustrating task. Things have changed, thankfully." From there he went to the European School in Luxembourg, teaching the children of European civil servants. With its emphasis on languages and understanding other countries' cultures, it was a revelation.

Mr Christie was the head of economics at Winchester before joining St Edward's in 1988. He has just returned from a sabbatical in the US, where he lectured on the Scottish Enlightenment's influence on America in the 18th century, and his dynamic approach

For 136 years St Edward's School has played a unique part in Oxford life. Its new sports centre, to be shared with the public, is a groundbreaker. George Pendle presents a two-page report

to education has prompted many changes at the school, from coeducation to the founding of the new sports complex. "I want to provide more and more facilities for the pupils so that they can develop their different intelligences and their different skills working together with other people, communicating with other people. I want them to be fit for life."

St Edward's primarily offers a boarding education, (there are three times as many boarders as day pupils) but even day pupils are at the school from 8.30am to 9pm. From September there will be ten houses — seven for boys, three for girls. The fees — £4,750 a term for boarders and £3,380 a term for day pupils — are not cheap. But there are many scholarships on offer for academic, music, art or all-round skills.

Last year 31 scholarships and exhibitions were awarded.

With a pupil-staff ratio of 8 to 1 and a staff turnover of less than 10 per cent a year, the school is neither stretched for resources nor understaffed. It has links with Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities; indeed several pupils are sons of dons. Many an Oxford don, says Mr Christie, has cycled over to the school to give talks. The pupils also have the chance to use the university's famed Ashmolean and Science Museums.

Within the school, departments are equally up to speed with information technology. Foreign language classes spend at least one lesson a week in the computer room, on which £300,000 has been spent in the past two years.

Ian Rowley, the head of modern languages (one of the school's most successful areas) sees IT as a great benefit. He says: "Using computers allows students of different academic ability to work in the same classroom without holding each other up or going too quickly. Thus, it enables students to be challenged at their own rate. When it comes to grammar, using the computer helps to sweeten the pill. It is a motivation for staff as well as pupils."

St Edward's has certainly given greater priority to academic work in the past ten years than it had previously. "The world has changed; gone are the days when mere attendance at a public school guaranteed the opening of doors," says Mr Christie. "I'm glad that people

are taken on their merits. The world is more competitive and children must be more flexible. We have a good number of very able pupils; we also have pupils of average ability — that is the environment in which people learn best."

"I believe in breadth, in preparing people for the future. I want them to have a good life, to feel happy and confident about themselves, able to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves and to have fun with a wide range of people."

"At the same time you hope that can happen while pupils are having a worthwhile, interesting and fulfilling time at the school. Any school that looks only to the future and forgets that five years has to be spent within its walls cannot provide a good education."

David Christie, Warden

## A look back in honour

**I**n 1863 Thomas Chamberlain, a High Church clergyman, founded four schools in Oxford as part of the "Oxford Movement", a religious movement advocating traditional forms of worship, *George Pendle writes*.

Of the four schools founded, only St Edward's remains, having moved north from its original site in the city centre in 1873 to Summertown, where it straddles the Woodstock Road. The area was developed in the late 19th century.

St Edward's soon disposed of the OM's dogma, while retaining the magnificent Gothic architecture that had come with it. Almost in defiance of its past the school now has a woman chaplain and, most liberally of all, optional chapel attendance for pupils.

"We do not make pupils attend an act of worship on Sundays," David Christie says. "We have people here of every faith and none."

Although St Edward's has never been a large school (its



Old boys: dambuster Guy Gibson, novelist Kenneth Grahame and actor Lord Olivier



### HISTORY

pupils have in recent years numbered around 600), it has nevertheless produced an impressive list of old boys. Kenneth Grahame was one of the first pupils at the school.

Its verdant setting left a great impression in his mind and was possibly the origin of his classic tale of riverbank life. Breaking out of the late-Victorian stuffiness that had created the school, he wrote

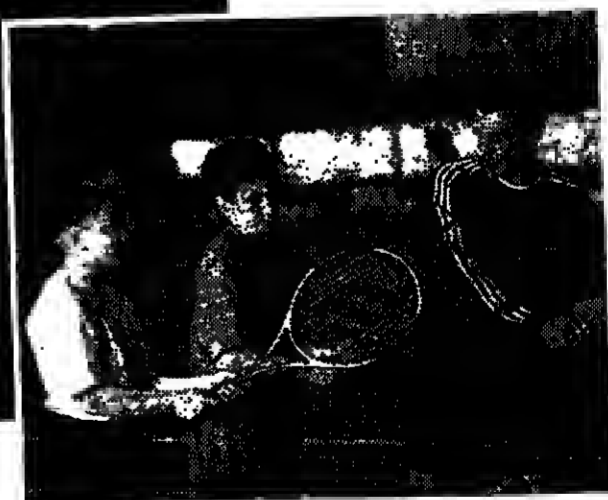
the escapist *The Wind in the Willows*.

Both boys and masters served in the world wars, many giving their lives. The chapel is a shrine to their endeavour, the walls being engraved with their names. Two of St Edward's old boys gained recognition for the roles they played in the RAF during the Second World War. Wing Commander Guy Gibson became a hero for leading the famous "Dambusters" raid in 1943. Sir

Douglas Bader was also a pupil at St Edward's. He is remembered in the names of school buildings and was a friend to the school up until his death. Laurence Olivier was another old boy and played his first Shakespearean role at the school (*Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream*), instigating a theatrical tradition that continues to this day. Other old boys include Jon Snow, the television journalist, and George Fenton, the film music composer.

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going on behind  
the bike shed!

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ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

# Slow to take the plunge, but girl power pays dividends

George Pendle reports on how the 'giant step' of going coeducational brought balance and growth to the boarding school

ONE of the most significant changes undertaken by the school in recent times has been the implementation of complete coeducation.

Girls first arrived at St Edward's in 1983, but only into the sixth form. When David Christie arrived as Warden in 1988 he was already looking towards beginning coeducation throughout the school, but it took nine years of consideration before they could be admitted.

"Full integration of girls into the school was considered and turned down twice," he explains. "We didn't have enough female teachers and we didn't have enough experience in educating large numbers of girls."

The school had to adjust not only its pastoral care, but also to work out the logistics of housing all the new pupils. A lot of planning had to be done, but eventually the giant step

was taken in 1997. Of course the impact of that 'giant step' has, as hoped, dissipated almost completely. St Edward's is now a co-ed school and you could not tell it had ever been anything else. Many of the pupils and teachers have almost forgotten what life was like before the change.

Nick McEwen, the joint head of school, verifies that opinion: "It was strange at first seeing younger girls, but within days it seemed like it had always been this way. It's really made the school more interesting. You get a 14-year-old girl involved in a play with senior boys and she can hold her own completely."

There are two girls' houses — Macnamara's and Oakthorpe — and this September one of the boys' houses (Corfe) will become a third girls' house, while the displaced boys will move into the new residential house. "I think the new house is a big statement on the attitude of St

Edward's," says Mr Christie. "We believe in boarding."

The introduction of girls has meant an equal shedding of places for boys but the school is at the moment growing towards its optimum size of 600 pupils. Every public school needs more pupils, but St Edward's seems to have avoided the trend of looking abroad for students.

There are, of course, pupils from overseas at St Edward's but the essential character of the school is very modern and very English. Going coeducational has not only helped increase intake, but it also chimes in with the school's philosophy of a complete education.

"I've always been in favour of coeducation," says Mr Christie. "I think without it you are inhibiting the educational process. That's my own opinion and others might disagree. One benefit of independence is that schools can choose the model they believe in."



Girls have been fully integrated into school life; the decision has meant that St Edward's can offer a more rounded education

## Team effort clinches £6m sports centre

In a unique deal, commerce is funding a complex that will be open to public and pupils

DAVID Christie, the Warden of St Edward's for the past 11 years, has a gleam in his eye. "There may be other examples of this but I don't know of any," he says with a smile.

St Edward's is about to undertake a scheme unheard of in private schooling. In co-operation with the First Leisure group, work is about to begin on a £6 million sports centre in the school grounds that will be open to the public and the pupils.

Such an undertaking would seem to create a huge headache but not, it seems, for Mr Christie whose smile is undimmed. No wonder: the sports complex is to be built entirely at First Leisure's expense while the school needs to provide only the land, on lease. Clearly, both sides will benefit from the arrangement.

The new multipurpose health and fitness centre is set to be the envy of many larger establishments and will include indoor tennis courts, squash courts, a 25-metre swimming pool, a gymnasium and an aerobics studio.

In addition to access to some of the most up-to-date facilities, a large sports hall is being built for the exclusive use of the pupils. First Leisure has undertaken to maintain the entire centre, swimming pool and all. The school will have no maintenance costs.

Such a foray into the commercial market is bound to raise eyebrows, but Mr Christie has few apprehensions.

"As a schoolmaster, not a businessman, one is always concerned that we are not getting the best deal, but our relations with First Leisure have been excellent. We are teachers, not leisure centre managers. We want to concentrate on what we are good at and leave the management to those skilled in that area."

The advantages of such a scheme are clear and look set to spur the interest of other schools — the centre has been gained without a penny being put on fees.

"Through this scheme we've enhanced our facilities enormously," Mr Christie says, "but simultaneously there's nothing that's putting a financial barrier up to people coming to the school, either through raised borrowing or

increasing the fees and that's what's so exciting. Our pupils' interests always come first."

Indeed, at a time when many private school pupils are becoming secondary considerations to the financial running of a school, it is a refreshing change to see business and teaching harmonised so readily and successfully as they have been here.

Although the construction of the centre has been ceded to First Leisure, there is no question of outsourcing of the school's sports teaching. St Edward's staff will continue to run physical education and games to the high standards that have made it a feared presence on sports pitches.

The school's previous sports centre was also used by the public, who are expected to

use it, Mr Christie says. Under the careful eye of David Bramble, the former bursar, it is hoped that the centre will be fully operational by next summer.

Mr Bramble initiated the project and, despite his retirement, will see it through to completion as project manager. He points out that there has been "a massive improvement in both the sporting and academic facilities for pupils in recent years."

At the same time as the sports centre is being built a new boarding house is also being completed. Senior pupils' rooms will feature en suite facilities. "It's the way things are going," says Mr Christie. "Unless schemes are found like the one we are involved in, the costs will continue to escalate."

Between May and February the new buildings will replace the present Douglas Bader sports centre but the name will remain intact.

The preservation of the memory of one of the school's greatest old boys is seen as important — the one concession to the past in a project that is resolutely looking towards the future.

## Pupils excel at rowing and rugby

SPORT

"THERE is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." So said Kenneth Grahame, one of St Edward's most illustrious old boys, who surely must have picked up the habit as a pupil here.

The boating tradition continues at St Edward's to this day, only now it is a little more than just "messing about". St Edward's prides itself on its sporting success and especially on its rowing. Winner of the schools' Head of the River race in both 1997 and 1998, St Edward's even set a new course record in its last triumph.

Strong competitors at the National Schools Regatta and Henley, some of the rowers go on to represent Blues in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race. Girls' rowing is also taking off, and it is hoped that they will emulate the success of the boys' crews. The school, however, does offer rowing at all levels, not just for the top teams, and with a boathouse on the nearby Thames, it takes place in surroundings of which Toad and Mole would surely have approved.

Yet rowing in no way eclipses the other sports on offer. The rugby team can boast an under-19 England international among its ranks. It won all but one of its games last season. "The school is always a strong contender in the Rosslyn Park Sevens competition. The girls' skiing team has also won many medals."

Almost every pupil takes part in a sporting activity of some kind (there are three or four teams for each sport in each year group) and the 90 acres of sports fields at the school allows a lot to take place. A new six-hole golf course is now on site and the soon to be constructed leisure complex will offer an enviable amount of alternative sports to take part in.

The advent of an all-weather pitch has left a renaissance in hockey. Apart from that, sailing, athletics, and more are on offer.



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## Bargains of the week: a Bank Holiday weekend in Jersey; walking in the Basque Country; touring Africa's most splendid sites



A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices

## BANK HOLIDAYS

**EASTBOURNE** is angry at a new Thomson television commercial depicting the place as the kind of sleepy resort you avoid for the fishpots of Europe. *Tony Dawe writes.*

To show just what the town can offer, Elite Hotels has a special deal this Bank Holiday weekend: a two-night break at the five-star Grand for £99 between Friday and Monday. Similar deals are available at the group's hotels in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex and Hook in Hampshire. Details: 01323 412345.

**ST HELIER** is the sunniest town in the British Isles — and that's official — so it could be the best place for the first Bank Holiday week of May.

Thomas Cook Holidays is offering a week's B&B at a guest-house close to shops and the beach for £261, with a return flight from Gatwick on Sunday. Details: 01733 418300.

**TENNIS**, swimming, a gym and sauna are all on hand and the peace, tranquillity and donkeys of the New Forest on the doorstep of the Passford House Hotel, where Sunvil UK is offering Bank Holiday weekend breaks at special rates. Arrive tomorrow or Saturday and two nights' B&B costs £64.50. Details: 0181-232 9788.

**DINGLE** Peninsula can claim to be the wildest and most beautiful part of the West of Ireland and has well-located holiday cottages available at a discount from May 8. A week's self-catering with Irish Ferries Holidays costs £85, based on four sharing and with a Pembroke-Rossare ferry crossing for car and passengers. Details: 08705 170000.

**NORTH YORK MOORS** is Britain's least appreciated National Park, but Inntour is offering the chance to discover it on a four-night walking trip from May 14, which costs £315 with half-board in atmospheric inns. Details: 01653 628862.

**VILLAS** and apartments in converted farmhouses on wine and olive-growing estates throughout Tuscany are available all next month from Crystal Premier Italy. Deals offering two weeks for the price of one are running until May 15. Prices start at £329, including return flights from Gatwick and car hire. Details: 0181-390 5554.

**MONET** fans who missed the London exhibition of his paintings can see some of his work at the Orange Museum in Paris, which houses his largest pictures and will show a special collection of 60 paintings from May 6. Two nights' B&B, Eurostar travel and entry to the exhibition will cost from £163 with Time Off. Details: 0990 846363.

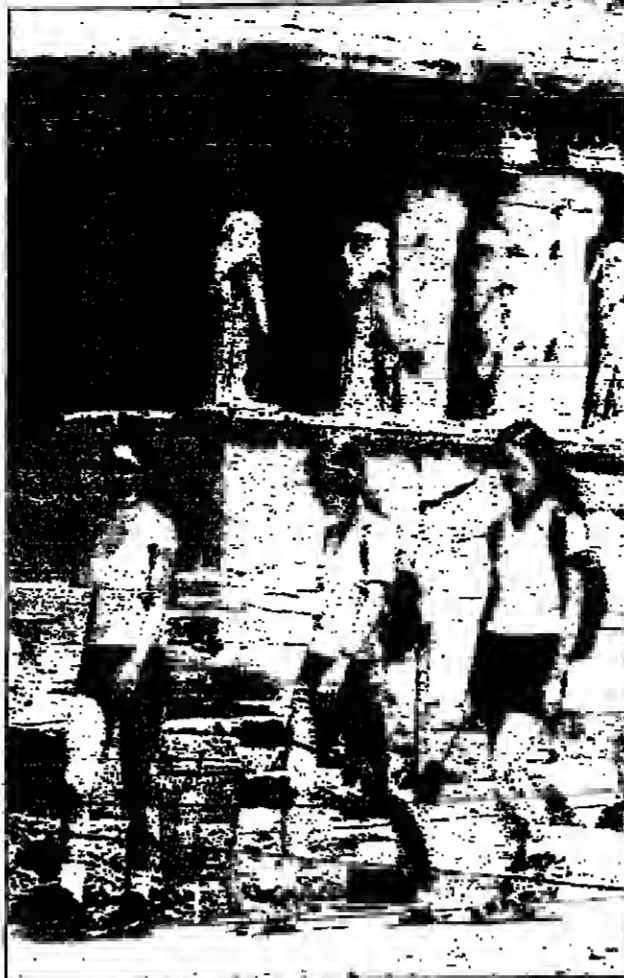
**KEFALONIA** for a week from Sunday for £139 and Skiathos for a week from Monday for £99, both self-catering and with flights from Manchester, are the best and most immediate offers to the Greek islands this week from Kosmar. Details: 0181-882 6999.

**VENICE** can be explored on a fortnight's Airtours holiday available from Co-op Travelcare for £219 and starting on Sunday. The offer includes half-board on the Venetian Riviera and flights from Gatwick. Details: 0541 500388.

**SAVINGS** of £200 on spring walking breaks in the Pays Basque are available with Pyrenées Adventures, cutting the cost of a week's peaks and valleys holiday from May 8 to £295 with full board. Travel is extra and return high-speed rail tickets from London cost £165. Details: 01433 621498.

**HAMBURG'S** biggest party, celebrating the 810th birthday of the city's famous harbour, takes place from May 7 to 9 and Lufthansa has special fares for those wanting to join the celebrations. Return flights from Heathrow cost £140 and Benz Travel can book them and accommodation. Details: 0171-462 0000.

**ATHENS** and its classical sites, plus the palaces, mosques and bazaars of Istanbul — with a five-night cruise in between — are all included in ten-night trips with Sovereign, which start with flights from Heathrow on May 20 and 25. Prices now start from £900. Details: 08707 500500.



At the Acropolis: a special deal to Athens is on offer

## LONG HAUL

**CRUISING** in the Far East for five days to resorts in Thailand and Malaysia is combined with two nights in Chiang Mai and three in Singapore on a special package available from Premier Holidays for £929. Fly from Heathrow on May 18 and 25 with Singapore Airlines to take advantage. Details: 01223 516677.

**FOR** those who prefer to stay on dry land, Asean Explorer is offering two weeks at beach resorts in Hua Hin, Thailand, for the price of one. The deal runs for the next two months and costs from £684, including return scheduled flights. Details: 01481 823417.

**EMIRATES** is busy flying cricketers and their supporters to the World Cup in Britain in mid-May, so there is plenty of space in its home town of Dubai, where Tradewinds is offering six-night breaks at the four-star Oasis Beach Hotel for £499. The holidays are available with flights from Gatwick on May 19 and 26. Details: 0870-751 0004.

**NAIROBI** for £298 return tops the flight deals on offer this week and is available

from Bridge The World for departures from Heathrow until the end of June. For those who can escape with small children in the next three weeks, Bon Voyage is offering Orlando for £315 return from Gatwick with two to 11-year-olds going free, subject to complicated conditions. Details: Bridge The World, 0171-911 0900, Bon Voyage, 0800-316 0194.

The Nairobi offer could be used to join Dragonair's African adventure starting from the Kenyan capital on May 3 and 17. A five-week tour takes in many of East and Southern Africa's most splendid sites, including the Ngorongoro Crater, Zanzibar and a floating safari on Lake Kariba. The price of £1,035, plus a £300 kitty, includes travel, accommodation (mostly camping) and meals. Details: 01728 861133.

● All prices are per person and based on two sharing, unless otherwise stated.

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Today The Times offers one lucky reader the chance to meet Nancy Cartwright, left, the actress behind the voice of Bart Simpson\* at an exclusive private preview of *The Art of Bart* at the Animation Art Gallery, Great Castle Street, London, W1 on Friday, May 14. The winner will also be given a signed, limited edition of Simpsons artwork, illustrated.

Every reader can get a free Simpsons poster titled *Deep Thoughts of Homer Simpson* worth £3.99 simply by attaching three differently numbered tokens to the voucher which will be published in The Times on Saturday and presenting it at any Virgin Megastore in the UK and Eire.

With the voucher you can also buy t-shirts in a choice of two designs for children or adults from £7.99 (usually £9.99-£11.99) and have £10 off Simpsons clocks (usually £39.99) and £1 off mugs (usually £5.99).

**HOW TO ENTER**

For your chance to meet the voice of Bart Simpson and win the signed artwork, simply call our competition hotline, below, with the answer to this question: Which town do the Simpsons live in? Lines are open until midnight on Tuesday, May 4.

\*See Bart Simpson in meg@every Saturday.

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CHANGING TIMES

## RUGBY LEAGUE

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Win or lose against Leeds Rhinos, it will be a poignant moment for Bev Rismann whose suggestion of an under-19 side for London was initially laughed out of the Rugby Football League. In 1996, with Dave Rotherham at the Broncos, he took several scholarship youngsters from Brisbane and other young hopefuls, many of whom had

"Bobby Wallis is a prime example of a kid who'd probably never heard of rugby league before, but turns out to have a natural aptitude for it. I'm going to take ten years, but reckon you'll then see a total home-bred London team."

which five per cent women. "We are seeing a increase in the numbers women joining and taking part in competitions," Wal said. "Female participation has been doubling every year over the past five years."

joining a club; White picked it up from the local who were riding the waves almost on her doorstep. She watched other people close and read magazines," she said. "The waves break v

ideal place to learn. It's also a very friendly atmosphere, the old boys and the local crew gave me lots of tips." In 1966, she was encouraged by the owner of the local surf shop to enter her first competition.

Nor does it necessarily follow that the most talented

"I don't know if I'll sing in ten years," said. "I have thought it much but I'm a person the ent."

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## Sale force to make further cut

# Enjoys benefiting from his new technique

From Colin Sullivan  
in Linz, Austria

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**LOOSE TALK**



e-mail: [sport@the-times.co.uk](mailto:sport@the-times.co.uk)

THE upheaval at Manchester United's Summer Sale continued yesterday as David Rees and Phil Granger, the England international, the England international, are having to contemplate the prospect of salary cuts as other players being put on the transfer list. Among them is Dion O'Niinneagham, Ireland flanker, who recently signed a new two-year contract at Heywood Road. O'Niinneagham was surprised to find himself among those available for transfer and is seeking a cadon from the club about his future. Kevin Ellis and Devereux are already a hand have now been in

stopping at Chiswick with tight cararms. Giles Monnickendam, lightweight at 73kg, advantage of Searle's ability to take the Scullers Head while the other contenders Mark Hunter, from London, who has represented Britain at junior and university level and who has won apprentices' pennant at Scullers Head a record five times. He will be eligible to compete for the coveted Scullers Coat and Badge in

The England men's team began with a 1-0 victory over Sweden in the first round. The team then played a 2-0 win over Sweden in the quarter-finals. The team then played a 2-0 win over Sweden in the quarter-finals. The team then played a 2-0 win over Sweden in the quarter-finals.

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the game, during which the people streaked. Four pub-  
Twoickham were reported  
to have closed early be-  
they could not cope with  
demand and possible tro-  
between rival supporters.

## Neath contemns

The Welsh may have  
presented a united front  
during their win over  
England at Wembley, but  
according to Terry Holmes,  
club rugby in the Princip-  
is riven with "petty  
jealousies". Holmes, whose  
eighty-year tenure as chair-  
Cardiff ends shortly, said  
one reason for his depart-  
was the club's decision to  
throw in its lot with the  
Welsh Rugby Union. "I  
would have liked to see  
the Allied Dubs

by four members of the opponent squad.

One player likely to miss Chris Yates, the centre, who is expected to join Gloucester. Adrian Hadley, the director of rugby, said: "We have been offered from Gloucestershire that Chris Yates but nothing has been finalised. I have been on the task of producing a competitive squad for next season within a budget of £1.5 million. We have no option other than to lose some players. Sadly, we have badly managed to break our contracts and salaries and unfortunately I have to cut the pieces."

Wasp's coach who appoints Mitchell, the former Gloucester, as forwards' coach on a temporary basis until the end of the season, are hoping to confirm his full-time appointment.

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[Premiership] — all Carers are going to get in Wales the same old hatred." He said. "Neath have been sounding off even though we have the best record of a Welsh club in the European Cup. What have Neath done in Europe, other than catch a plane?"

## Big cheese

You would scarcely recognise Philippe Saint André's popularity around Gloucester. Is it merely coincidence that local supermarkets now stock

The International Board is considering gene plays if Namibia compete in the World Cup. The Namibian Government has suspended the Namibia Rugby Union for failing to fill an agreement to limit a quota of black players in the national side. If they forced to withdraw, they must be replaced by the losers from this world repechage matches, including Tonga, Uruguay, and South Korea.

Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the guarantors' creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 54 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DP, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.

Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution modifying the terms on which the liquidator is to act, or any of the matters may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the terms of the proposed arrangement of affairs and convening the meeting.

Yours faithfully,  
The Liquidator,  
The Honourable David, Director

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Age Group	Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Unknown (%)
18-24	100	55	45	0
25-34	100	65	35	0
35-44	100	55	45	0
45-54	100	45	55	0
55-64	100	35	65	0
65+	100	25	75	0





# Bettori pencils in ride on Pescara

STILL the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas refuses to emerge from its murky gestation. Though Sunday's classic has already been shown of several leading contenders, as late as yesterday ante-post punters found the door squeezing uncomfortably against the shoe. It appeared to slam on supporters of Calando, while those who have made Mother of Pearl as short as 10-1 will do well to get a run for their money.

Concrete plans remain a luxury, but at least the Godolphin team has acquired a measure of definition. Pescara, whose success in the fillies' trial at Nad al Sheba was a tribute to her progress in Dubai, is likely to be rewarded by the assistance of Frankie Dettori. Such, at any rate, was the natural interpretation of support for her, from 20-1 to 14-1 with Coral.

Though Calando dropped out of the equation after the arrivals from the desert stretched their legs on Newmarket Heath yesterday morning, Richard Hills is expected to ride Fairy Queen. Godolphin's personnel also seems sorted for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, with Dettori on Island Sands.

By CHRIS McGRATH

Easaar will be ridden by Michael Roberts. Even Godolphin is not immune to the misfortune of several leading contenders, as late as yesterday ante-post punters found the door squeezing uncomfortably against the shoe. It appeared to slam on supporters of Calando, while those who have made Mother of Pearl as short as 10-1 will do well to get a run for their money.

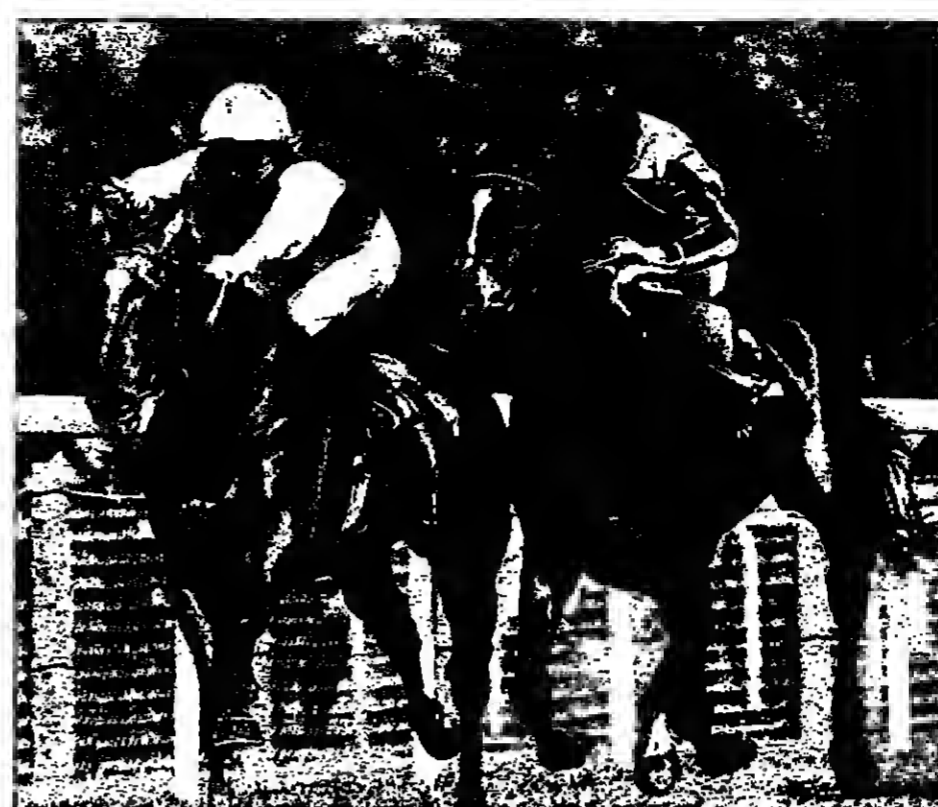
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backers of Commander Collins wished to hear. Manton has still to produce a winner this season whereas Henry Cecil, also facing a weekend, could be emboldened by the listed-race success of his favourite, Ascot yesterday. Enrique contests 2,000 Guineas favouritism despite faltering in front in the Groenham Stakes, while Wince staked a sufficient 1,000 Guineas claim in the Fred Darling Stakes for Hills to go 10-1 from 14-1 yesterday.

They both went nicely this morning. Cecil said, "I'm delighted with them, and they both have a great chance of being in the first three. Wince is improving, while Enrique thought he'd done enough after being in front too soon. A lot of mine are needing a race, and they should come on."

Life is never dull for those who follow the fortunes of Celeric, the long-distance runner who needs to be ridden for a turn of foot. But Richard Hills was equal to the heart-stopping challenge of restraining him until well inside the last furlong of the Inghelp Sagaro Stakes. Celeric is now 8-1 with Coral to retrieve the Gold Cup he won in 1997.



Celeric, right, lands the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

### MEETING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

Underfoot conditions: Standard, Hard, Firm, Good, Soft, Heavy

**REDCAR**  
Flat, 6-furlong card  
1st race: 2.20  
Winning favourite: 34.3%  
Long-distance traveller: Thats Life (3.20), Myrrindon (3.20), M. Speculation (4.20), 273 miles

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
Flat, 7-furlong card  
1st race: 2.10  
Winning favourite: 32.2%  
Long-distance traveller: Arbor Esels (3.10), 146 miles

**BRIGHTON**  
Flat, 6-furlong card  
1st race: 2.00  
Winning favourite: 36.4%  
Long-distance traveller: Sonnet (2.00), Arden (2.00), 152 miles

See racecards for detailed going.

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

**Ascot**  
Good, good - good to soft in places.  
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## CRICKET

# Lewis gives further reminder of quality

By MARK BALDWIN

**LEICESTER** (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Leicester have scored 337 for nine wickets against Lancashire

AROUND the country, attention is centred, understandably, on players earmarked for World Cup action. At Grace Road yesterday, for instance, Ian Austin provoked more than a few murmurs by pulling out of the meeting between the champions and runners-up of last season.

A potentially heavyweight PPP county championship contest was also scaled down somewhat by the absence from the Lancashire team of Fairbrother, another member of the England World Cup squad, Martin and Atherton. Fairbrother was rested and Austin has a thigh muscle strain.

In the circumstances, the likes of Darren Maddy and Chris Lewis had to fight hard to be noticed. But, in the end, noticed they were. Form and fitness seemed to be commodities in worryingly short supply in the England camp, but Austin moved to calm fears that his injury might jeopardise his involvement in the World Cup.

He has played only one CGU National League match this season, plus his three appearances in Sharjah, since having an operation on his left knee during the winter, but Austin said: "I don't think there is a serious problem. I have had some improvement in the thigh but not enough to play in a four-day game. As far as I am concerned I will be on schedule for the World Cup."

The absence of Austin and Martin, also injured, allowed Smeethurst, 22, to make his second championship appearance and he picked up the wicket of Smith after Crawley, the Lancashire captain, had, perhaps defensively, chosen to

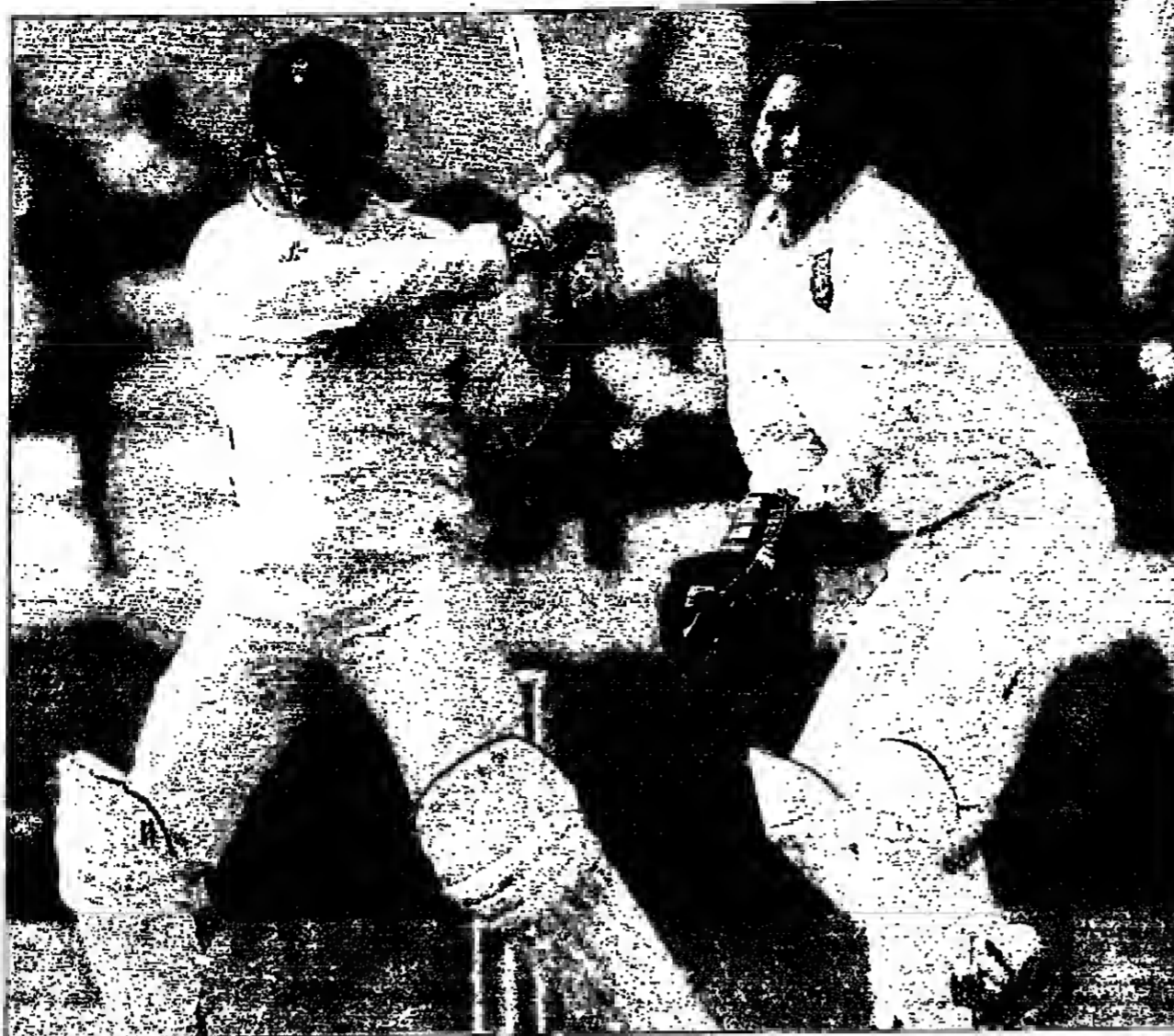
bowl first. It was Richard Green, however, who caught the eye in an inexperienced attack: he took four top-order wickets and a smart return catch to end Maddy's innings. Maddy, sixth out, scored 86 and has come back strongly from shabby treatment by the England selectors just under a year ago. The parallels with the start of the 1998 season are already apparent. Maddy, returning then as now from a successful winter A tour, began in good form and was picked for the Texaco Trophy against South Africa with a Test debut widely predicted to follow.

It never happened. He made one run in his only innings in two Texaco matches and Maddy—his confidence clearly undermined—eventually struggled to a pitiful 512 championship runs from 23 innings, one of those being a 162, against Durham.

Yesterday, however, he batted with great assurance against the moving ball and now, with two full months before the Test series against New Zealand, has plenty of opportunity to put the painful memories behind him.

Lewis would be the choice of many people as a World Cup all-rounder ahead of the likes of Austin, including, by some accounts, Alec Stewart. Lewis made 139 a fortnight ago when Lancashire launched the defence of their title by thrashing Essex and yesterday another massive contribution in the context of this game.

First with Nixon and then in a last-wicket stand of 72 with Brimstone, Lewis denied Lancashire's tangible reward for a spirited deployment of their limited resources. Batting is not likely to be straightforward against Lancashire's pace attack and Chilton may rue dropping Lewis, on 30, off Green.



Kendall pulls powerfully towards the boundary as Speight, the wicketkeeper, looks on. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

## Kendall in mint condition

By RICHARD HOBSON

**CHESTER-LE-STREET** (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 344 for eight wickets against Durham

THERE is much wisdom in the adage that practice makes perfect, but Will Kendall will testify that rest, too, has a role in the quest to improve. A decision to leave his bat untouched from the end of last season until the beginning of March is beginning to appear inspired.

Last week, Kendall scored 93 for Hampshire against Kent, when a leading edge resulted in Martin McCague accepting a return catch. He was entitled to feel disappointed with his dismissal yesterday, for attempting to work John Wood off his pads carried a certain resemblance, but this time a career-best score in the county championship of 105 ensured that satisfaction soon replaced any initial frustration.

With Adrian Aymes and Derek Kenway contributing half-centuries and Dimitri

Mascarenhas scoring 44 to secure the innings, Hampshire enjoyed much the better of a first day played, for the most part, in what older spectators were able to identify as sunshine. They are the only side yet to record a first-class victory against Durham, but that might change before the weekend is over.

Having withstood a searching examination of his back-foot technique against the pace of Harrison, on a generally

slow pitch, Kendall accumulated his runs phlegmatically as a quartet of Durham seamers failed to bowl with the consistency that Boon, the captain, would have required. It said much that soon after lunch he should turn to the off-spin of Gough, who bowled 24 overs in eight matches last season.

Durham had begun constructively. Lewis, at short leg, reacted swiftly to remove Stephenson and White in the first hour and Wood, maintain-

ing a length to assist swing, then forced an outside edge from Smith, which Bets held alertly at third slip. Yet having restricted Hampshire to 70 for three, they allowed Kendall and Aymes to reverse the situation with a partnership of 142 in 40 overs.

Aymes, who has established himself at No 5, played neatly between mid-on and mid-off, while Kendall remained unhurried, knowing that the "four ball" was never far away. His fifty arrived after 122 minutes with five fours and he breached the boundary on nine further occasions in progressing to three figures.

Aymes drove a half-volley back to Wood and as Kendall, after 211 minutes, provided Speight with a catch, the bowler could reflect upon belated reward for the occasions when he beat the outside edge in a far better first spell. Kenway, who is one run away from equalling his career-best of 57 today, and Mascarenhas set up on 83 to ensure that the efforts of the top order would not go to waste.

### SCOREBOARD FROM CHESTER-LE-STREET

<b>HAMPSHIRE</b> First Innings	
G W White c Lewis b Harrison...25	
J P Stephenson c Lewis b Brown...7	
W S Kendall c Speight b Wood...105	
H A Smith c Batts b Wood...10	
A N Aymes c and b Wood...51	
D A Kenway not out...56	
A D Mascarenhas b Collingwood...44	
S D Uddall not out...1	
A C Morris c Collingwood b Brown...2	
N A Mclennan not out...38	
Extras (b 2, lb 13, nb 24)...38	
<b>Total (8 wickets, 105 overs)...344</b>	
S J Renshaw to bat	

<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-21, 2-38, 3-70, 4-121, 5-238, 6-322, 7-335, 8-340	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Brown 24-64-2, Batts 21-6-54-1, Harrison 18-2-83-1, Wood 23-4-76-3, Gough 12-2-23-0, Collingwood 12-2-29-1	
<b>DURHAM:</b> J B Lewis, M A Gough, J E Morris, J A Daley, D C Boon, P D Collingwood, T M P Speight, M B Batts, J Wood, S J E Brown, S J Harrison	
<b>Bonus points:</b> Durham 3 Hampshire 3	
Umpires: A M Mellender and K E Palmer	

## Derbyshire lose their grip after Slater sparkles

By JACK BAILEY

**CANTERBURY** (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

THE first championship match of the season at Canterbury had everything that a Kent supporter could ask for, except a more encouraging performance from their team. There were blue skies, a blameless pitch and, if you could keep out of a keen wind, ideal conditions for watching Kent build a useful score after being sent into bat by Dominic Cork.

But Kent's batting failed dismally, with the notable exception of Matthew Walker, 21lb lighter than he was last season and looking the better for it in every way. After they had been bowled out for 141, they were put to the sword by Michael Slater and bludgeoned by Adrian Rollins.

Prospects for Kent looked bleak when, after a century partnership between these two, Derbyshire passed the Kent total with eight wickets in hand. If ever a team had a match by the scruff of the neck at 5pm on the first day of a four-day match, it was Derbyshire yesterday.

The picture changed somewhat, though, as Dean Headley recovered from a severe mauling at the hands of Slater and Rollins—his first spell of six overs cost him 47 runs—to snap up two quick wickets in a fiery spell that cost 16. Mark Ealham took two more as Derbyshire lost five wickets for 26 runs and Kent had forced their way back into the game.

Slater's sparkling innings had been ended by a sharp catch at mid-off after he had made 65 out of 131 from 77 balls. Bearing in mind that his first championship half-century last season was not until August, he was off to a roaring start. If this sort of form, which brought him eight fifties and a couple of sixes, continues, Derbyshire's potential will be greatly enhanced.

Despite their evening collapse, there are, on this evidence, several other reasons why Derbyshire could be up there with the best of them by the end of the season. Their off-the-field troubles seem to be behind them. Perhaps Colin Wells, their new coach, has influenced their general approach in the field. Here it was keen, competent and aggressive.

The quicker bowlers kept the ball up to the bat, giving it a chance to swing. None more so than Kevin Dean. His dismissals of Fulton, Key and Wells were classics of their kind: straight balls leaving the batsmen, followed by the late dipping inswinger of full length. The three-and-trick was never more ably demonstrated. With De Freitas and Cork in support, Kent were reduced to 70 for seven.

In spite of Walker's fine, restrained innings—which brought him 53 in nearly three hours and helped double the score for the last three wickets, Kent were in trouble. Andrew Symonds was given his county cap in the tea interval, but there was little else for Kent to cheer as Slater and Rollins took them apart.

Derbyshire's century opening stand was achieved at twice the pace of Kent's own milestone, but after Weston was unfortunately run out, it was Derbyshire who were reined in before bad light intervened with four overs left.

### YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

#### PPP county championship

**Essex v Warwickshire**  
CHELSEA (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Warwickshire

<b>WARWICKSHIRE</b> First Innings	
N V Pugh c Law b Cowen...2	
M A Wagh c Law b Cowen...2	
O J Morris b D Grove...18	
T L Penney c Hussain b Khan...18	
T Frost c Hyatt b Khan...11	
A S Brown c Gosselin b Bell...69	
N M K Smith b Bell...28	
A P Glass c Law b Cowen...28	
G Wagh not out...16	
T A Munton c Such b Grayson...28	
E S H Gosselin b Grayson...6	
Extras (b 6, lb 1, nb 0)...6	
<b>Total (9.5 overs)...271</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-2, 2-6, 3-47, 4-71, 5-76, 6-84, 7-171, 8-202, 9-261	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Cowen 18-4-80-2, Bell 18-4-33-3, Gosselin 13-3-59-1, Hyatt 17-4-40-2, Such 17-2-37-0, Grayson 7-5-15-2	

#### Essex First Innings

P J Richardson c b Giddings...10	
O O J Robinson not out...2	
M C Bost not out...1	
Extras (nb 2)...2	
<b>Total (1 wicket, 9 overs)...18</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-17, 2-18, 3-18, 4-18, 5-18, 6-18, 7-18, 8-18, 9-18	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Giddings 1-17-1, Welch 4-2-8-0, Umpires: J C Balderson and O R Shepherd	

#### Glamorgan v Sussex

**CARDIFF** (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 183 runs behind Sussex

<b>SUSSEX</b> First Innings	
R R Montgomery c Dale b Jones...28	
M T Preece b Dale...10	
C J Adams c Maynard b Thomas...13	
M J D Vernon c Croft b Jones...12	
P A Connor c Evans b Croft...8	
R K Rao c Maynard b Thomas...8	
R S C Martin-Jenkins b b Thomas...0	
S Hampshire c Thomas b Jones...4	
R J Kiley c Shaw b Jones...4	
U A Rashid b Jones...43	
M A Robinson not out...1	
Extras (b 3, lb 3, nb 4)...10	
<b>Total (9.5 overs)...252</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-42, 2-44, 3-61, 4-86, 5-104, 6-109, 7-118, 8-147, 9-218	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Wicket 18-5-43-0, Thomas 18-4-34-3, Dale 18-3-40-1, Jones 13-3-31-3, Croft 19-7-35-2	

#### Glamorgan First Innings

S P James c Preece b Kiley...14	
M M Preece b Dale...10	
A Dale b b Robinson...12	
A C Croft not out...1	
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 0)...2	
<b>Total (2 wickets, 13 overs)...38</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-14, 2-38	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Kiley 5-11-23-0, Martin-Jenkins 10-13-0-13-0, Robinson 2-1-3-1, Umpires: J H Hampshire and J H Hanes	

#### Gloucestershire v Middlesex

**Bristol** (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 246 for seven wickets against Middlesex

<b>GLoucestershire</b> First Innings	
K J Barnett c Fraser...51	
H C Bennett c Kettleborough b Cook...1	
O J Hewson c Smith b Cook...1	
M W Aylmer c Ramprakash b Shih...7	
M G M Windward c Nash b Tunell...15	
R J Dawson c Nash b Tunell...18	
J N Snipe b b Fraser...36	
J R Russell not out...1	
J Lewis not out...28	
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 4)...14	
<b>Total (7 wickets, 110 overs)...246</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Fraser 27-13-38-2, Tunell 13-2-51-1, Hewitt 12-5-51-1, Tunell 13-2-51-1, Shih 12-5-51-1, Aylmer 12-5-51-1, Dawson 12-5-51-1, Snipe 12-5-51-1, Russell 12-5-51-1, Lewis 12-5-51-1	

#### Kent v Derbyshire

**CANTERBURY** (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

<b>KENT</b> First Innings	
D P Fulton b b Dean...14	
R W T West b Dean...11	
A P Wells b Dean...11	
M J Wicket c Cork b Smith...53	
A Smith c Kiley...1	
M A Ealham c Kiley b De Freitas...2	
M V Fleming c Cassar b De Freitas...10	
R S A Marsh b Dean...1	
W W Headley c Cassar b Cork...10	
M W Preece b Cork...1	
Extras (b 10, lb 0, nb 0)...14	
<b>Total (10 wickets, 140 overs)...141</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-5, 2-20, 3-27, 4-43, 5-55, 6-59, 7-70, 8-94, 9-112	
<b>BOWLING:</b> De Freitas 17-3-46-3, Dean 17-3-34-0, Cork 11-1-34-2, Smith 4-1-15-1	

#### Derbyshire First Innings

M Slater c Fleming b Symonds...65	
A S De Freitas c Key b Headley...17	
R M S Weston run out...2	
P J Richardson c Fulton b Ealham...4	
M C Connor b b Headley...7	
O O Cork not out...2	
P A J De Freitas c Fleming b Ealham...2	
W M Kiley not out...172	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14)...17	
<b>Total (6 wickets, 48.4 overs)...172</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1	
<b>BOWLING:</b> McCague 24-0-12-0, Headley 14-1-32-2, Ealham 12-3-35-1, Dean 11-1-35-1, Fleming 9-1-30-0, Symonds 7-0-31-0	

#### Leicestershire v Lancashire

**LEICESTER** (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Lancashire have scored 337 for nine wickets against Leicestershire

<b>LANCASHIRE</b> First Innings	
V J Wells c Hogg b Green...46	
D J Maddy c and b Green...44	
O J Lister c Hogg b Green...17	
B F Smith c Parnell b Smith...14	
A J Whitaker c Hogg b Chappell...14	
A Hetherington c Hogg b Chappell...17	
P A Nelson not out...25	
O J Lister not out...25	
A O Mullaney c Lloyd b Chappell...0	
Extras (b 5, lb 1, nb 8, nb 4)...16	
<b>Total (8 wickets, 104 overs)...337</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-74, 2-82, 3-116, 4-140, 5-174, 6-185, 7-205, 8-205, 9-205	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Chappell 25-5-74-2, Smith 16-3-45-1, Parnell 13-2-48-0, Green 28-10-81-2, Hetherington 12-3-53-0, Headley 11-3-30-0, Chilton 2-1-4-0	

#### Lancashire First Innings

N T Wood, M J Cullen, J C Crawley, G Ouliff, A Farnham, M W Green, M P Smeethurst, Umpires: N J Lewis and A Clarkson	
<b>Northamptonshire v Surrey</b>	
<b>NORTHAMPTON</b> (first day of four: Northants won toss): Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 176 runs behind Northamptonshire	
<b>NORTHAMPTONSHIRE</b> First Innings	
R J Bailey b b Bicknell...78	
M J Hayden b Bicknell...63	
M A Lowe c Sharpe b Bicknell...1	
R J Warren not out...0	
O J J Sales c Brown b Tudor...16	
A J Penberthy c and b Bicknell...1	
G P Swann c Batty b Butcher...0	
O J Petherick c Batty b Butcher...0	
J P Taylor b b Salebury...71	
O Petherick c R C Hollands b Tudor...19	
O E Mclennan not out...1	
Extras (b 11, lb 6, nb 22)...39	
<b>Total (10 wickets, 125 overs)...348</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-25, 2-20, 3-29, 4-71, 5-80, 6-82, 7-91, 8-208, 9-248	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Bicknell 21-6-48-4, Tudor 19-4-18-2, Hollands 12-3-53-0, Butcher 11-3-19-2, Salebury 14-1-39-1, A J Hollands 6-1-19-0	

#### Surrey First Innings

M A Butcher not out...39	
I J Ward c Swann b Malcolm...0	
R Shakes not out...0	
G P Thorpe not out...0	
Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 2)...9	
<b>Total (1 wicket, 18 overs)...79</b>	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-78, 2-78, 3-78, 4-78, 5-78, 6-78, 7-78, 8-78, 9-78	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Bicknell 1-17-1, Tudor 4-1-21-0, Petherick 5-0-20-0, Swann 2-1-4-0, Umpires: A Jones and G Sharp	

## Johnson in renaissance

By PAT GIBSON

**TRENT BRIDGE** (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 377 for five wickets against Worcestershire

PAUL JOHNSON must be the best batsman of his generation never to have played for the England senior team. He did not look it last season when he was buckling under the burden of captaining Nottinghamshire, but he was back to his best yesterday with a century that was as warming to the Trent Bridge faithful as the long overdue sunshine.

It was an early return to Nottinghamshire's initiative in bringing back Clive Rice, who led them to two county championships in the Eighties, as manager. The first thing that Johnson did on hearing the news was to sign a new contract. The second thing he did was to get himself fit, knowing how Rice would make him suffer if he was not.

As a result, he looked better again as he went within two runs of scoring 100 between

lunch and tea with his own pugnacious brand of stroke-play. Johnson's on-drives are better described as straight lefts, his cuts as forearm jabs and his pulls as uppercuts.

Jason Gallian also asserted himself by passing 50 for the first time in 13 championship innings since taking over the captaincy last July and Chris Read, the England A wicket-keeper, put on a nice little exhibit

of batting in front of David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. It all added up to maximum batting points for a side which performed that feat only once last summer. What is more, they did it on a grassy pitch.

There was bounce and movement, but unfortunately for Worcestershire, once Liprot had added to his five wickets against Surrey last week by having Robinson caught at third slip in his first over, they could not put the ball in the right place often enough. Asaful found it hard, making only 12 in the best part of two hours before Leatherdale had him caught behind, but Gallian was beginning to find some form with 82 in a little more than three hours, including 16 fours, when Lampitt claimed him leg-before.

Then there was Johnson, reviving memories of how he was rated ahead of Thorpe and Hussain in the 1991-92 A tour of the West Indies, and finally Read, more than justifying his promotion to No 6.

It was a fine day for Johnson, who was rated ahead of Thorpe and Hussain in the 1991-92 A tour of the West Indies, and finally Read, more than justifying his promotion to No 6.

Johnson: return to form



Johnson: return to form

## Smith takes dashing lead

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

**CHELMSFORD** (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

THE tale has become a familiar one for Essex. Just as they did against Leicestershire, in their first championship match of the season, for a while they lived with, even dominated, Warwickshire yesterday. It was tempting to believe that the corner had been turned and a run of championship defeats that stretches to seven matches could be arrested.

With the considerable advantage of having won the toss, Essex found little resistance in reducing Warwickshire to 84 for six by lunch on a two-paced pitch, with all six top-order batsmen dismissed. They then spent the next 59 overs taking the remaining four wickets while Warwickshire recovered to 271.

The change in fortunes after lunch could not have been more striking. Three off-side

boundaries from solid back-foot strokes from Neil Smith, the Warwickshire captain, saw Mark Iltot out of the attack. Jamie Grove, his replacement, was promptly clattered for three fours in his first over. In the space of only 44 balls, Smith had reached a half-century that had altered the direction and tempo of the day.

His innings may have sub-



Smith: positive response

sequently stagnated, as he took 60 balls over his next 19 runs before being bowled by Iltot, but with the precedent set, Ashley Giles rarely looked troubled in scoring 30. Tim Munton contributed 24 at No 10, and Graeme Welch weighed in with an unbeaten 48.

It was a far cry from the start when Iltot and Ashley Cowan did much as they pleased with the new ball. Most of the first hour was spent with Warwickshire batsmen pushing forward at three runs a pop, and sure enough Iltot finished with three wickets and Cowan, Iltot and Grayson two apiece—in Grayson's case the last two of the innings—but not before batting conditions were made to appear a different proposition.

The pitch may have lost much of its life as the day wore on, but Essex were unable to survive the eight overs that they were asked to negotiate before the close, losing Paul Frithard before playing back to Ed Giddings.


When Sussex were bowled out for 222, the broadest Welsh grin belonged to Simon Jones, 20, son of Jeff, the former Glamorgan and England left-arm seamer. Jones, playing in his fourth county championship match



## Same space, worlds apart

John Higgins held an 11-3 advantage over Stephen Lee, even though his standard of play dipped considerably from that which transported him to an 8-0 lead on Tuesday. The solitary highlight was a 124 break, his fifth century of the championship.

Lying in wait for the titleholder is Mark Williams, who, like O'Sullivan, endured some anxious stretches before converting an 11-5 overnight lead into a 13-9 win over Ken Doherty, the 1997 champion and runner-up last year.

 **LINKS**

WEBSITE: [www.embassygolf.com](http://www.embassygolf.com)  
— official tournament site


TELEVISION: BBC1, 2.30pm. BBC2, 3.30, 6.45, 9.50pm

designed by his father. After coaxing Jay Kay to talk about his sex life he is off for lunch with the Mercedes sports car-driving supermodel Caprice. Then follows banter with singer Richard Fairbrass of Right Said Fred fame, who is not too sexy to drive a Porsche, and two of Britain's star sprinters, who favour the MGF and the Ford Puma.

**Dilbert**  
*Sky One, 8.30pm*

Said to be the most popular comic strip in the world, reaching 150 million readers daily, with spin-off bestsellers and its own World Wide Web Site (which attracts 4 million visits monthly), the cartoon by Scott Adams has now become an animated series which will surely emulate the success of *The Simpsons* and *South Park*. In fact, since Dilbert, though sophisticatedly cynical about the world, is never as "sick" as *South Park*, it has much broader appeal. It is funny, literate, beautifully observed. For those who haven't seen the strip, it features nerdy Dilbert, an engineer for the company, his dog Dogbert (much smarter than his [is] Scrabble-word mother, Dilbert, colleagues Wally, Alice and Louie Howard, and *The Bunchy Hairy Boss* Tony Patrick

**Galfione wins his Olympic gold medal at Atlanta. Photograph: Gary M. Prior/Allsport**



soars regularly over man's new "ultimate height" of 20ft.

To most spectators, the thought of sprinting down a runway before trying to plant a 7ft pole into a small hole to catapult skywards is terrifying. It is easy enough to identify with other events — such as running, jumping, throwing and swimming — but pole vaulting is unfathomable.

These daredevils who fly without wings are a rare breed. That they should be cool and skilled enough in mid-vault to reach out and stroke a trembling crossbar is breathtakingly athletic. Far from being penalised for this, they should be applauded.

**WORD-WATCHING**  
**Answers from page 46**  
**ORCHIL.**  
 (b) A red or violet dye prepared from certain lichens, especially *Rocella tinctoria*.  
**PLICHTANKER**  
 (a) The main anchor of a ship from the Low German area, then the Dutch *plechtanker*, the principal or chief anchor that holds a ship.  
**POPVISIT**  
 (a) A short, hasty, or unannounced visit in which one pops in.  
**NOUTHETICAL**  
 (b) Monitory, warning. From the ancient Greek.

**SOLUTION TO  
WINNING MOVE**  
1 Rxe7! Kxe7 2 Rg3+ Kh7 (2...  
Kh8 3 Nxf7+) 3 Qc2+ and the  
black queen is lost.

**CHOICE**

**The Circle**  
*Radio 4, 11.30am*

Elizabeth Baines's comedy series gets off to a promising start. It isn't every writer who in the space of a little under 30 minutes can juggle with three married couples, their respective children and their attempts to strike a balance between parenthood, neighbourhood and livelihood. Episode one lays down the groundwork for what will be the series's principal preoccupation – the plan to set up a babysitting circle on a housing estate where, as someone says, there isn't a child-minding teenager in sight. There seems to be a lot of this circle being squared. Especially good in a cast that includes Sherrie Hewson, are the little 'uns who are fated to be the catalysts in this experiment in mutualism. **Peter Dinkley**

From the edge of the New World,  
a new, dry, spicy full-bodied red.

What we do know is that top English vaulters used to climb the pole by shifting their handgrip. One of these climbers, Roy, who was seven times the AAA's champion, went to the United States in 1897 and won their national championship by clearing a height of 11 ft 4 in. The Americans outlawed the technique, though the British still allowed it until after the end of World War I.

Those were the days of unorgiving poles made of hickory, ash or spruce, with a weighed iron tip. The vaulter would cross the bar in a sitting position and, if he was lucky, and on grass clippings or sawdust. Just after the turn of the century, they began to experiment with bamboo poles that were lighter and would flex when planted in the ground.

When the record reached 14 ft in 1927, it was hailed as "man's ultimate height". Bamboo ruled the world of vaulting until metal poles appeared in the 1940s.

The advent of fibreglass poles in the 1960s saw records improve out of all recognition and today's king of the vaulters, Sergei Bubka, of Ukraine,

soars regularly over man's new "ultimate height" of 20ft.

To most spectators, the thought of sprinting down a runway before trying to plant a 7ft pole into a small hole to catapult skywards is terrifying. It is easy enough to identify with other events — such as running, jumping, throwing and swimming — but pole vaulting is unfathomable.

These daredevils who fly without wings are a rare breed. That they should be cool and skilled enough in mid-vault to reach out and stroke a trembling crossbar is breathtakingly athletic. Far from being penalised for this, they should be applauded.

When you are hanging 20ft in the air and attempting the impossible, you need all the helping hands you can get.

**JOHN BRYANT**

**SOLUTION TO  
WINNING MOVE**  
1 Rxe7! Kxe7 2 Rg3+ Kh7 (2...  
Kh8 3 Nxf7+) 3 Qc2+ and the  
black queen is lost.

- 4.30 **The Material World** Trevor Phillips meets the scientists who claim to have invented one of the world's most slippery surfaces
- 5.00 **PM** With Claire English and Eddie Mair
- 6.30 **The Crocodile** New Zealand's most famous crocodile
- 6.30 **This Reminds Me** Ned Sherrin looks back on his entertaining career. Last in the series (5/6)
- 7.00 **The Archers** The latest events in Ambridge
- 7.15 **Front Row Arts** round-up with Francine Stock
- 7.45 **News** Geraldine Newman's theme: *Starring Diana Benham, Emma Rice and Carl Goss*. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (1)
- 8.00 **United Irishmen** Fergal Keane recalls the turbulent life of Wolfe Tone, the Protestant founding father of Irish republicanism (1)
- 8.30 **The Week in Westminster** Michael Crack takes a look behind the scenes
- 8.50 **Connect** Quentin Cooper investigates precision farming and its implications for agricultural future
- 9.30 **Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time** (1)
- 10.00 **The World Tonight** With Robin Lustig
- 10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds**  
   Joanna David reads part nine of Susan Hill's novel *The Service of Clouds*
- 11.00 **TV Arts** 4: Do Go On Gift Rivals Goss  
   Graeme Garden 4: *Do Go On Gift Rivals* Goss  
   Elliot in a satirical discussion on travel (5/6)
- 11.30 **(FM) Your Place or Mine?** Report on the Caribbean women who travelled to Canada to become domestic workers in the 1960s. Last in the series (5/6) (1)
- 11.30 **(LW) Today in Parliament** Political round-up
- 12.00 **News**
- 12.30 **The Late Book: Biggest Elvis** Ron Bergie reads part nine of P.F. King's novel about three Elvis impersonators working in the Philippines
- 12.45 **Shirley** (1)

# Laugh

Wales

9.30-9.35

Wales

9.30-9.35

Wales

9.30-9.35

Wales

9.30-9.35

Wales

9.30-9.35

Wales

9.30-9.35

Wales

9.30-9.35

Wales

9.30-9.35

# Laugh, but in the privacy of your own home

You know how it is when you make them? — and maybe that somebody is one of your dining companions. Possibly, it is the same person who also likes Hale and Pace.

Nobody admits to using the spookier sex aids, just as nobody admits to finding Hale and Pace funny. But there must be people who laugh at Hale and Pace in the privacy of their own homes. Who else would the BBC have squandered so much money on hiring this pair of jokers (I'm not using this word in the same sense as they might use it of themselves) from ITV? Look around you now, in your Tube train or at the neighbouring desks in your office: statistically, some of these men and women must be clever but too shy to avoid these people completely. Just try to keep a safe distance.

Just how dispiriting was the opening show of Hale and Pace's

new variety series, *h@p@bbc* (BBC1)? So dispiriting that the *Radio Times* couldn't even bring itself to recommend it to readers. Maybe Hale and Pace are experimenting with a very avant-garde sense of humour, pinching themselves as the Surrealist Incestors of BBC Light Entertainment by producing a comedy show that has no obvious comedy in it at all.

And what's with that title (all lower case, note, which shows that Hale and Pace have done their homework and are therefore now as Web-smart as, say, the average nine-year-old)? Gareth was wondering that, too. "So it's not," said Gareth mockingly to Norman, hoping to draw the sting by getting in before us, "actually it's a vain attempt by two fat, middle-aged comedians to look vaguely trendy and computer-astute." But if not that, then what was it? Maybe Hale and

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## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Pace don't mind handing their audience a stick with which to beat them, because this would at least imply that they have an audience. The show itself was a ragbag of sweepings from those ideas rejected by other variety shows. In a pointless quiz, the comedians — Tony Blackburn, the Eurovision singer Katrina Leskanen, and the DJ Jonathan Coleman (the only redeeming presence in the show)

answered questions that were neither interesting nor amusing. For a pop quiz, contestants from the audience had to listen to snatches of music while immersing their heads in a tank of water: was there any reason for this, other than the fact that the person who devised this game had the IQ of a semolina? After that, for no apparent reason, a traffic warden from Islington appeared naked for us — a "Naked Civil Servant". But he wasn't a civil servant, was he?

The "comedy" duo thought it would be amusing to go to Scotland to see just how strong the Scots are by entering shops in Perth and demanding that they be given things free. This left the shopkeepers with the choice of either looking tight-fisted, or of being intimidated by two "comedians" and their film crew who — unwittingly — were recording the shopkeepers' reactions. The BBC. This segment ended with us being allowed

to watch Gareth urinating from under his newly acquired, frothy kilts: maybe there was a punline here, but I couldn't see it. Or maybe we could see it, but it was just very, very small. We all look forward to next week, when Hale and Pace might explore other stereotypes (blacks? Jews? Germans?) to similar hilarious effect.

As for the celebrity *Stars* in their *Stars* in which Anitahe "It's time for another image change". Turner confessed (only jokingly) to being an egomaniac, before regaling us in the guise of Shane MacGowan, the thought foremost in your mind was: who advises this woman on her PR?

Compared with this, listening to Mark Urban tell us on *Levitation* (BBC2) that the Good Friday agreement is not at all dissimilar to the Sunningdale agreement which attempted power-sharing in Northern Ireland 26 years ago — and

that after all these years nobody had come up with any new ideas — really was funny. Or else it was depressing. I forget which. Sometimes the news is very small.

Jamie Oliver, *BBC2's Naked Chef*, is moving closer to TV sainthood. Last week he cooked dinner for his sister's hen night. This week he babysat his young cousins while preparing ravioli and a praline *semi freddo* for their parents' dinner. Here is a search for a new TV format that has paid off: the chatting in an unseen interview, the frantic hand-held camera: the handsome, unfussy, 23-year-old chef whose descriptive vocabulary runs out after pukkah, wicked, lovely jubbly, and really funky: the cooking for photogenic relatives. It could all so easily have gone wrong. Oliver clearly has a bright television future, just so long as he resists the temptation to make guest appearances on Hale and Pace.

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (81097)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (73726)
- 9.00 Kilroy (1) (9461542)
- 9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (941349)
- 10.15 The Vanessa Show (1) (1499496)
- 11.00 News: Weather (1) (6322146)
- 11.05 City Hospital (1) (9532875)
- 11.55 News: Weather (1) (6323038)
- 12.00 Going for a Song (1788225)
- 12.25pm Just a Minute (1) (4938702)
- 12.55 The Weather Show (1) (1022900)
- 1.00 News: Weather (1) (6323131)
- 1.30 Regional News: Weather (5846282)
- 1.40 Neighbours (1) (5756911)
- 2.00 Through the Keyhole (1) (7271)
- 2.30 Snooker: World Championship The opening session of the first semi-final. Commentary by Clive Everton (7056146)
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8912148)
- 3.45 Chucklewood Critters (2903184)
- 4.10 Awin and the Chumpkins (1533368)
- 4.20 Julia Jettell and Harriet Hyde (5385658)
- 4.35 Goosebumps (7006091)
- 5.00 Newsround (5949788)
- 5.10 Miami Vice (282327)
- 5.35 Rewind (1) (418287)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (731894)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (900)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (262)
- 7.00 Watchdog: On the House Adrian Chiles visits the homes of Lottery winners, and travels to a housing estate in Glasgow with a rather unusual problem (1) (1287)
- 7.30 EastEnders (1) (436)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital (1) (4707)
- 8.30 Supernatural: The Unseen Power of Animals (1) (6542)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (1078)
- 9.30 Party Political Broadcast By the Conservative Party (1) (719349)



More romantic escapades with the quareless foursome (9.35pm)

- 9.35 Men Behaving Badly Tony decides to dump his old girlfriend in favour of Debbie. Comedy series, with Martin Clunes, Neil Morrissey, Caroline Quincey and Leslie Ash (1) (724146)
- 10.00 They Think It's All Over (1) (88374)
- 10.30 The Frank Skinner Show (1) (18542)
- 11.00 Question Time (1) (80918)
- 12.05am Hurry Sundown (1967) Melodrama focusing on the economic and racial tensions affecting a small community in post-Second World War America. Michael Caine stars. Directed by Otto Preminger (35729127)
- 2.20 Weather (1) (1092)
- 2.25 BBC News 24 (9454756)

### For further listings see Saturday's Vision

#### SKY ONE

- 7.00am Court Duckies (7342) 7.30-8.00am The Simpsons (1997) 8.30am The Simpsons (1997) 9.00am The Simpsons (1997) 9.30am The Simpsons (1997) 10.00am The Simpsons (1997) 10.30am The Simpsons (1997) 11.00am The Simpsons (1997) 11.30am The Simpsons (1997) 12.00am The Simpsons (1997) 12.30am The Simpsons (1997) 1.00am The Simpsons (1997) 1.30am The Simpsons (1997) 2.00am The Simpsons (1997) 2.30am The Simpsons (1997) 3.00am The Simpsons (1997) 3.30am The Simpsons (1997) 4.00am The Simpsons (1997) 4.30am The Simpsons (1997) 5.00am The Simpsons (1997) 5.30am The Simpsons (1997) 6.00am The Simpsons (1997) 6.30am The Simpsons (1997) 7.00am The Simpsons (1997) 7.30am The Simpsons (1997) 8.00am The Simpsons (1997) 8.30am The Simpsons (1997) 9.00am The Simpsons (1997) 9.30am The Simpsons (1997) 10.00am The Simpsons (1997) 10.30am The Simpsons (1997) 11.00am The Simpsons (1997) 11.30am The Simpsons (1997) 12.00am The Simpsons (1997) 12.30am The Simpsons (1997) 1.00am The Simpsons (1997) 1.30am 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